

teak wood in general, but sometimes sisoo and paisor. When the present proprietor of a house changes the old pillars, the work of the turner is dispensed with, and the pillars, although fairly well carved, remain of a quadrangular form. This is easily gathered from the fact that all the quadrangular carved pillars are invariably the new ones. The friezes also are good, and a few of the panels, too; but in general this carving, although effective, is of very rough execution, and cannot stand comparison with that by the artisans of Lahore, Delhi and Agra. There are very few wood-carvers at present at Patna, and the decay in this profession has proceeded so far that none of the new buildings on the long road between Bankipore and Patna have any wood-carving at all."

Gold and  
silver  
work.

Patna, with Cuttack, Murshidābād and Monghyr, forms one of the principal centres of the gold and silversmith's art in this Province. Gold and silver ornaments are principally made in the city of Patna, but there are also gold and silversmiths in the mofussil towns and every large village. Gold ornaments form the most costly portion of the dowry given to a girl, and are also worn by certain classes of men, *e.g.*, Rājputs and Bābhans wear a gold necklace and armlets, while a well-to-do Goālā or Dhobi wears, as a token of his affluence, gold earrings, a gold necklace, armlet or bracelet. Silver ornaments are used by those who cannot afford to wear gold ornaments, and a set of silver vessels, consisting of a *pān*-box, *attar* tray, flower-vase, and rose-water bottle with a tray, is usually presented as a dowry by members of the middle class; the more wealthy add to these a horse and an elephant, with trappings and ornaments for both, a silver *tānjān* or sedan, silver sceptres, maces, wands and spears. These articles are borrowed on occasions of weddings or display; and silver chairs, sceptres, maces and wands are kept by Rājās and Nawābs, and are lent by them on ceremonial occasions.

Other  
industries.

The other industries are insignificant and merely meet local demands. There is a small business in harness and shoe-making in Patna city; and the same place contains a considerable number of braziers, whose yearly outturn has been valued at Rs. 50,000; the brass vessels they produce are strictly utilitarian, and there is little or no attempt at ornamentation. The value of the iron work manufactured annually has been estimated as over Rs. 50,000, iron bird-cages being a speciality of the Patna blacksmiths. Soap making was formerly an industry of the Bihār subdivision, which has died out owing to the cheapness of European soaps; and only eight families are now engaged in this old handicraft. The manufacture of *naichas* or tubes for hookahs is a speciality of the same

subdivision, the local products being exported to Calcutta and elsewhere. An industrial exhibition was held at Bankipore in 1907, and it is proposed to hold it annually.

The principal imports are salt, coal, kerosene-oil, rice, <sup>TRADE.</sup> European cotton piece-goods, and gunny bags; and the principal exports are wheat, linseed, gram, pulses, mustard seed, hides, molasses and unrefined sugar, raw tobacco and opium. The main line of the East Indian Railway runs through the whole length of the district, while the Patna-Gayā branch and the Bihār-Bakhtiyārpur Light Railway serve to open out the southern portion. A large amount of trade finds its way along these channels; but the greater quantity is transported by river. This trade centres in Patna city, which is one of the largest river marts in Bengal, forming the changing station and general centre for all the river-borne trade. It is conveniently situated for the purpose of transport either by river or railway, having a river frontage of 7 or 8 miles in the rains and of 4 miles in the dry season; while its central position near the junction of three great rivers, the Ganges, the Gandak and the Son, where the traffic of the United Provinces meets that of Bengal, gives it great natural advantages as a distributing centre. Goods coming up by rail from Calcutta are there transferred to country boats, bullock carts, etc., to be distributed throughout the neighbouring tracts, which in return send their produce to be railed or shipped to Calcutta, Nepāl and elsewhere. The river trade is carried by country boats and river steamers between Patna and Calcutta and other places on the Ganges and Nadiā rivers, and by country boats between Patna and Nepāl.

The trade of the city, though still large, has declined of late years owing to the opening out of several new lines of railway in the districts north of the Ganges, and also owing to the policy of the railway companies, which charge a freight between intermediate stations out of proportion to the through freight to Calcutta. It is cheaper to book goods direct to Calcutta than (as formerly) to rail them to Patna, and thence send them down by river; and consequently the smaller merchants, who used to bring their goods and grain to Patna, now find it more advantageous to send them direct to Calcutta. Other important markets are Dinapore, Bihār, Bārh, Mokāmeah, Islāmpur, Fatwā and Hilsā. The principal trading castes are Telis, Agarwāls, and the various mercantile castes collectively called Baniyās. The transport by river is mostly in the hands of Musselmāns, Tiyaars and Mallahs, and that by road in the hands of Goālās and Kurmīs.

Fairs.

The marginal statement shows the largest fairs held in the dis-

NAME.	Place.	Attendance.
Rājgir fair ...	Rājgir ...	50,000
Chath ...	Aungari ...	30,000
Māghi Purnamāshi ...	Bārhi Umanāth... 15,000	15,000
Dayā Pind ...	Pūnpūn ...	13,000
Satwani ...	Bārhi Umanāth... 12,000	12,000
Chirāgha ...	Bihār ...	10,000
Shorātri ...	Atama ...	10,000
id ...	Bihtā ...	5,000
id ...	Baikathpur ...	10,000
Chaiti Chath ...	Barghon ...	10,000
Kātki Chath ...	Bargūon ...	10,000

trict. None, however, are of any great importance, except that held at Rājgir, which takes place every three years. There is only one cattle fair, viz, that held at Bihtā, which attracts about 5,000 persons. As a rule, the people obtain their cattle and horses from the fairs held at

Sonpur in the Sāran district and at Barahpur in Shāhābād.

Weights and measures.

The standard seer of 80 *tolās*, known as the *pakkā* seer, is in use in the chief centres of trade, the weights being made of metal and stamped. Outside Patna and Dinapore, however, most of the weighing is done by what is known as the *kuchchā* seer, which is supposed to consist of a multiple of so many *gandis* (a *gandi* being equivalent to 4 *tolās*), and varies from 44 to 84 *tolās*. The weights used are often a mere lump of stone, unstamped and of no definite weight, and the facility afforded for cheating is obvious. The *paceti*, which is supposed to be equal to 5 seers, similarly varies from 5 to 7 seers. Among jewellers and apothecaries the following scale of weights is observed:—8 *ratis* = 1 *māshā*, 12 *māshās* = 1 rupee.

For measures of length both the English yard of 36 inches, called the *nambari gaz*, and a native yard of 39 inches, called the *bara gaz*, are commonly employed; the latter is sometimes also 40½ or 41½ inches. For domestic purposes the *hath* or cubit averaging 18 inches and the *balisht* or span of 9 inches are generally used. In measuring land the most common measures of length are the *laggi* or *bāns*, which is about 8½ feet long, and the *rassi*, which is nearly 60 yards long and is nominally 20 *laggis*.

The principal measures of capacity are all based on the seer, and there are very few cases where standard measures, such as gallons, are used. When sold in large quantities, liquids are often weighed against regular weights; and when sold retail, the commonest measures are vessels made of tin, clay or bamboo. Earthen pots and bamboo *chungās* are in wide use for liquids of all kinds and also bottles of uncertain capacity, which are supposed to hold the equivalent of a seer or part of a seer.

## CHAPTER XI.

## MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

THE account of the roads given by Buchanan Hamilton nearly 100 years ago presents a vivid picture of the deficiency of communications at that time. "During the rainy season," he says, "all internal commerce is at a complete standstill, as the roads are then so bad, as not to admit of even cattle travelling with back loads. I have seen no country, that could be called at all civilized, where so little attention has been paid to this important subject, and even in the vicinity of the jails, where many convicts sentenced to labour are confined, very little has been done. The cross roads from market to market are those which are chiefly wanted, and no one who has not seen the condition of these could believe that a country so extremely populous and rich, and having such occasion for land conveyance, could be so ill provided. The object in such roads is not to enable gentlemen to drive their carriages, but to enable cattle carrying back loads to pass at all seasons from one market to another, and in the fair season to enable carts to do the same."

Develop-  
ment of  
communi-  
cations.

This is not a very high standard, but even so the roads of Patna fell below it, and internal communication was almost entirely confined to pack-bullocks. The Ganges was the great highway between the district and other parts of India, and it continued to form practically the only route to Bengal until 1862, when the main line of the East Indian Railway was extended through the district. In 1877 the Patna-Gayā Canal was opened, and thus provided another means of traffic; in 1879 the Patna-Gayā State Railway was started; and recently the south-east of the district has been tapped by the Bihār-Bakhtiyārpur Light Railway, which was opened for traffic in 1903.

The district is now well provided with communications. The East Indian Railway runs through its northern thānas from end to end; the Patna-Gayā Railway intersects the headquarters subdivision and the Bihār-Bakhtiyārpur Light Railway the Bihār subdivision from north to south; the Patna-Gayā Canal skirts the



whole of its western border; and the Ganges, with a large boat traffic, bounds it on the north. Besides these main routes, it is well provided with roads connecting the more important bazars and marts; and though it is still somewhat badly off as regards cross roads, practically every village can be reached by pack-bullocks, which are numerous and largely used.

## ROADS.

The District Board maintains 106 miles of metalled and 486 miles of unmetalled roads, while 13 miles of metalled road from the Bankipore Golā to the western end of the Dinapore cantonment are under the charge of the Public Works Department. The total length of the roads maintained in the district is thus 605 miles; and this shows a great improvement on the state of affairs prevailing 30 years ago when the total length of all the Provincial and district roads was only 469 miles. In addition to these main roads, there are a number of village roads, with a length of 688 miles, maintained by the Local Boards.

The most important road is that running along the north of the district, parallel with the Ganges, through Bārhi, Bankipore, Patna and Dinapore, which leads to Monghyr on the east and Arrah on the west. Of the other roads the most important are those from Bahhtiyārpur to Bihār (13 miles), with a continuation to Giriak (13 miles) and thence to Nawāda in the Gayā district (23 miles); from Fatwā to Hilsā (13 miles), with a continuation through Ekangarsarai and Islāmpur to Gayā; from Dinapore to Maner (8 miles); and from Maner to Bihtā (6 miles) and thence to Mahābalipur (20 miles) close to the Son: all these roads run from north to south. Among the cross country roads may be mentioned the road from Bihār to Fatwā (27 miles) and a long road carried almost throughout the whole breadth of the district from west to east, running from Bihār to Ekangarsarai (18 miles) and thence to Masaurhi (16 miles), and terminating 20 miles further on at Mahābalipur on the Son.

## Conveyances.

Much of the internal traffic of the district is still carried on by means of pack-bullocks, as the villages off the roads are not accessible to carts in all months of the year. The rivers, streams, and irrigation channels which spread out in all directions, and the nature of the soil, which, being largely composed of clay, becomes very heavy when wet, precludes bullock-carts from travelling about with the same ease and freedom as in North Bihār. It is not until the cold weather that the interior of the country is opened out to them, and during the rains pack-bullocks ply to and from the villages. The carts in use are similar to those used in other parts of Bihār, but the light springless carts known as *ekkas* are also common.

The main line of the East Indian Railway traverses the north of the district for 86 miles from east to west, entering it at Burhee (Barhiya) station and leaving it a short distance to the west of Bihta, where a fine lattice-girder bridge has been built across the Son. This great work was commenced for a single line of rails in 1854, and after many interruptions during the Mutiny, was completed in 1862; the second line was begun in 1868 and finished in 1870. The total length of the bridge from back to back of the abutments is 4,199 feet, divided among 28 spans of 150 feet each. Underneath each line of rail is a sub-way for foot-passengers and beasts of burden, for which tolls are levied by the railway company. There are no less than 18 stations within the district on this line, viz., Burhee, Dumra, Mokameh Ghāt, Mokameh Junction, Mor, Pandarak, Barh, Athmal Golā, Bakhtiyārpur, Khusrupur, Fatwā, Banka Ghāt, Patna, Bankipore, Dinapore, Neorā, Sadisopur and Bihta. The mail trains stop at Mokameh Junction, Patna, Bankipore and Dinapore. A branch line from Mokameh Junction to Mokameh Ghāt connects with the Bengal and North-Western Railway, and another short branch line runs from Bankipore to Digha Ghāt, in connection with a ferry steamer of the same railway. Bankipore is also the junction for the Patna-Gaya Railway, which runs south through the Bankipore subdivision, leaving it near Nadaul station 23 miles from Bankipore; the other stations in the district are Pūnpūn and Masaurhi.

Further to the east there is a light railway, with a length of 18 miles, between Bakhtiyārpur and Bihār, the intermediate stations being Chero, Harnaut, Wena, Pachāsa and Soh; it is proposed to open another at Bagān Bigha between Wena and Pachāsa. The District Board has guaranteed 4 per cent. interest on the capital of this railway, which is known as the Bakhtiyārpur-Bihār Light Railway, and is entitled to receive half of any profits in excess of that amount. The railway was opened for traffic in July 1903, and is to be extended to Silāo, 10 miles from Bihār and 4 miles from Rajgir. There was formerly a tramway, employing horse traction, in Patna, but it was abandoned some years ago.

The Ganges is the chief waterway of the district, but it has lost its position as the main line of communication between Bengal and the Upper Provinces. As far as Digha it retains something of its former splendour, for the stream is here augmented by the Gandak, but owing to the diversion of its waters for irrigation purposes further north, it is navigated with difficulty by steamers, and only by steamers of light draught, as far as Buxar. The Indian Navigation and Railway Company maintain

WATER  
COMMUNI-  
CATIONS.

a steamer service along it, which they run jointly with the Rivers Steam Navigation Company. Steamers ply daily between Digha and Goalundo, between Digha and Buxar, and between Digha and Burhaj in the district of Gorakhpur, with an extended run every fourth day to Ayodhyā. Paddle steamers ply from Digha to Goalundo, but above Digha only stern-wheelers can be used owing to the shallows met with; all passengers and goods are, therefore, transhipped at Digha, which contains the local head office of the Company. The other steamer stations in this district are Hardi Chaprā north of Maner, Mārufganj in Patna city, Fatwā, Baikanthpur, Bārḥ and Mokāmeh. The passenger traffic consists principally of labourers going to Eastern Bengal in search of work, while the goods traffic is mostly in grain, sugar and piece-goods.

Navigation on the Son is intermittent and of little commercial importance. In the dry season the small depth of water prevents boats of more than 20 maunds burden proceeding up-stream, while the violent floods in the rains equally deter large boats, though boats of 500 or 600 maunds occasionally sail up it. The other rivers are not navigable, for with one or two exceptions they are almost dry throughout the hot and cold weather; in the rains they fill very quickly, but as rapidly subside. When they are in flood, they soon become unfordable, and, as a rule, no boats are obtainable, except at the ferries, which are few and far between. The country people, however, provide a ready substitute in the shape of light rafts, called *gharnaīs*, made of a light framework of bamboos supported on inverted earthenware pots (*gharā*). The Patna-Gayā Canal, which traverses the Dinapore and Bankipore subdivisions, is navigable, and a large number of bamboos are brought down by it to Digha. There is a biweekly steamer service on it between Khagaul (Dinapore railway station) and Mahābalipur in the south of the headquarters subdivision *viā* Bikram.

#### Ferries.

Outside Patna and Bankipore, the principal ferries are those on the Ganges at Hardi Chaprā, Sherpur and Dāūdpur in the Dinapore subdivision, all situated along the Dinapore-Maner road, and at Bakhtiyārpur, Bārḥ, Athmal Golā and Mokāmeh in the Bārḥ subdivision. These are first class ferries managed by the District Board of Patna. The *ghāts* in Bankipore and Patna are Digha, Mahendra, Rāmghāt, Pathrighāt, Adrak, Mārufganj, Damriakī and Jethuli. They are let in one lot with the *ghāts* in the Sāran and Muzaffarpur districts by the Magistrate of Patna, who distributes the rent between the District Boards of Sāran and Muzaffarpur and the Patna Municipality.

The boats used in the district are all country made, the principal centres of the industry being Patna city, Bānka Ghāt and Fatwā. They are, in general, broad in the beam, and can therefore be used in comparatively shallow water. The larger ones have a roof-like deck to protect the goods inside from the weather. There is one mast, on which a cloth sail full of rents and patches is hoisted when the wind is favourable. When going down stream, they are propelled from the stern by means of long bamboo punt-poles, and are steered by a huge rudder of the rudest construction. On the return journey, which is generally made when the river is at its lowest, the boats are tracked up against the stream by means of ropes fastened to the top of the mast, but should there be any wind, the tow ropes are coiled up and the sail is hoisted. For crossing the Ganges or the Sōn, smaller boats are used. Some are decked with bamboos or boards, on which a little straw is sometimes put for conveying horses or bullock-carts; passengers are generally taken across in undecked boats. These boats are propelled by bamboo punt-poles, and sometimes also with a pair of oars. The rowers sit near the prow, all on the same seat; and the oars, which are formed of a bit of board tied with rope to a short bamboo handle, ~~work against~~ <sup>are</sup> pegs to which they are loosely fastened with rope. Little or no attention is paid to keeping time; and the rowers, when working hard, rise from their seats at every stroke.

A long narrow dug-out (*dīngī*), cut from the trunk of a tree, is often used for crossing rivers. Sometimes two of these dug-outs are lashed together to support a bamboo raft. During the rains the villagers use the small rafts, called *gharnais*, which have been described above. Seated astride on one of these primitive but effective rafts, they manage to cross flooded rivers or streams too deep to ford.

There are altogether 339 miles of postal communication and 72 post offices in the district, there being thus one post office for every 29 square miles. The number of postal articles delivered in 1905-06 was 4,207,000, including letters, postcards, packets, newspapers, and parcels; nearly half the total number or 2,089,000 were postcards. The value of the money orders issued was Rs. 19,17,600 and of those paid Rs. 28,82,130; and there were 10,829 accounts in the Savings Bank, the total amount of the deposits being Rs. 3,40,000. Besides the telegraph office at Bankipore, there are 8 postal-telegraph offices, from which 20,694 messages were despatched during the year; these offices are situated at Bārī, Bakhtiyarpur, Bihār, Dīghā, Gulzārbāgh, Mokāmeb, Patna city and Silāo.

POSTAL  
COMMUNI-  
CATIONS.

## CHAPTER XII.

## LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

EAST  
ENGLISH  
ADMINIS-  
TRATION.

WHEN the Diwāni or fiscal administration of the three Provinces of Bihār, Bengal and Orissa was granted to the East India Company in 1765 by the Emperor Shāh Alam, a dual system of government was inaugurated, by which the English assumed the administration of civil justice, collected the revenues and undertook to maintain the army, while the criminal jurisdiction or Nizāmat was vested in the Nawāb. But, though the civil and military power of the country and the resources for maintaining it were assumed on the part of the Company, it was not thought prudent to vest the direct management of the revenue system in the hands of Europeans, whose previous training in mercantile affairs had not qualified them to deal with its intricacies. Accordingly, the existing system of administration was continued, and until 1769 a native Naib or Deputy Diwān, Mahārāja Shitāb Rai, had the immediate management of revenue affairs under the nominal supervision of the European Chief at Patna.

In 1769 Supervisors were appointed in subordination to the Chief to superintend the native officers employed in collecting the revenue and administering justice, and in October 1770 a Comptrolling Council was established at Patna. This council consisted of three members, James Alexander, who was the Chief, George Vansittart and Robert Palk; but Shitāb Rai, the Naib Diwān, also frequently attended their meetings. The Supervisors were furnished with detailed instructions for obtaining complete information regarding the economic conditions prevailing; the state, produce and capacity of the lands; the account of the revenues, the cesses, or arbitrary taxes, and of all demands made on the cultivators; the manner of collecting them, and the gradual rise of every new impost; the regulation of commerce and the administration of justice. The information elicited by these enquiries showed the internal government to be in a state of profound disorder, and the



people to be suffering great oppression. Nevertheless, seven years elapsed from the acquisition of the Diwāni before the Government deemed itself competent to remedy these defects. It was not till 1772 that the Court of Directors resolved to "stand forth as Diwān, and by the agency of the Company's servants to take upon themselves the entire care and management of the revenue."

In pursuance of these orders, the Naib Diwān at Patna was removed, and it was decided to substitute European for native agency. The Supervisors were now designated Collectors, and a native officer styled Diwān was associated with each in the "superintendency of the revenues." In November 1773, it was decided that these Collectors should be withdrawn and replaced by native officials called *āmils*; but the control of the revenue administration still remained with the Chief and Council of Patna, a body which continued in existence till the abolition of Provincial Councils in 1781.

In the meantime, the administration had been going from bad to worse. In 1772 it was determined to make a five years' settlement of Bihār, and the zamindārs having declined to accept a farm of the revenues, the system of putting them up to public competition was attempted. A body of speculators, called "renters," accordingly sprang up, and farmed the revenue till 1777, but the experiment proved a failure, as these speculators, ignorant of the real capabilities of the country and incited by the hopes of profit, readily took leases of the revenue for sums which they were utterly unable to pay. On the expiry of the settlement in 1777 it was determined to introduce the system of yearly farms, but this arrangement only intensified the mischief. The "renters" had no assurance that they would retain their leases another year or even have time to collect the current demand; they exacted as much as they could extort in the shortest time possible; and knowing that they would be imprisoned for any arrears, they made every endeavour to amass a fortune as soon as they could.

In 1781 the whole of Bihār was settled with the Diwān of the Company, Kalyān Singh, who had the official title of "Roy Royan of Subeh Bihār;" and he proceeded to divide the settlement with Kheālī Rām Singh, who became his Naib Diwān. Neither of them, however, was in a position to manage such a large extent of country, and they were forced to let out the *parganas* to farmers or sub-renters called *āmils*. In some cases the ancient families of zamindārs secured the farms, but in others the *āmils* were strangers and speculators, with no local

influence or prestige, and utterly ignorant of the people and their rights. Sepoys had to be sent to assist them in enforcing payment; they collected the rents at the point of the bayonet, wrangled with the local zamindars, oppressed the ryots, and embezzled as much as they could.

Under this system, the Diwān practically enjoyed the powers of a feudal baron. He treated the Revenue Chief with contempt, refusing to obey his orders or make over the revenue to him; and he claimed as an independent chief to be directly under the orders of the Governor-General. All zamindars were liable to sudden confinement in the Haveli Begam at Patna and to be dispossessed of their estates for arrears of revenue without any chance of being released until every farthing was paid up; they were liable to be turned out of their estates for collecting tolls and *abwabs*, or owing to the prevalence of crime; any foe could get a sheriff's officer to arrest them for a false claim, while dishonest *sardars* fleeced them on the one hand, and the ryots on the other. These disastrous experiments were not finally ended till the decennial settlement was concluded in 1790 and declared to be permanent in 1793.\*

ADMINIS-  
TRATIVE  
CHANGES.

Before this measure, the revenue administration was remodelled, the Council of Patna being abolished in 1781 and the general charge of revenue affairs made over to a Committee of Revenue in Calcutta, which was again superseded by the Board of Revenue in 1786. The Revenue Chief still remained in direct control of an enormous charge, comprising Tirhut, Shāhābād and Bihār, *i.e.* the modern district of Patna and the northern portion of Gayā; but in 1782 Tirhut and in 1784-85 Shāhābād were formed into separate Collectorships.

In 1786 the revenue system was again modified, the designation of the Committee of Revenue being changed to that of Board of Revenue; while European Civil Servants were placed in charge of the several districts into which the country was divided and were vested with the united powers of Collector, Civil Judge and Magistrate. In proposing this union of different authorities in the same person, the Court of Directors were influenced by the consideration of its having "a tendency to simplicity, energy, justice and economy." They placed on record that they were actuated by the necessity of accommodating "their views and interests to the subsisting manners and usages of the people, rather than by any abstract theories drawn from other countries, or applicable to a different state of things." It was only in

\* J. R. Hunt *Early English Administration of Bihar*, Calcutta, 1894.

the administration of justice in the city of Patna that a District Court was established, superintended by a Judge and Magistrate.

By Regulation I of 1816 the district of Bihār was, for revenue purposes, placed under a separate Commissioner, who was vested with the authority previously exercised by the Board of Revenue and Board of Commissioners in the Province of Benāres and that part of the Province of Bihār which was comprised in the *zilas* or districts of Bihār, Shāhābad, Sāran and Tirhut. In the following year another Commissioner was added, and the Board thus formed was called the Board of Commissioners for Bihār and Benāres. In 1829 this Board was abolished, and its powers were vested in a Commissioner at Patna acting under the orders of the Board at Calcutta. It was not till 1825 that Bihār was constituted a separate Collectorate; and in 1831 the Judge-Magistrate being given increased powers as a Sessions Judge, and his magisterial powers made over to the Collector, the present unit of administration, the Magistrate-Collector, was created. In 1845 the offices of Magistrate and Collector were separated, to be again reunited in 1859 by the orders of the Secretary of State. Finally, the district of Patna was created in 1865, the southern portion of the old district of Bihār being constituted part of the newly formed district of Gayā.

The most noticeable feature in the land revenue history of Patna since the time of the Permanent Settlement is the remarkable extent to which the subdivision of estates has gone on. In 1790, there were 1,232 separate estates on the rent-roll of the district, as then constituted, held by 1,280 registered proprietors or coparceners paying revenue direct to Government; the total land revenue in that year amounting to 4,00,092 *sikka* rupees. In 1800 the number of estates had already increased to 1,813, the proprietors to 1,976, and the land revenue to 4,64,726 *sikka* rupees. In 1850, when the area of the district had been considerably increased, there were 4,795 estates and 25,600 registered proprietors, while the land revenue amounted to Rs. 18,20,290. In 1870-71, when the district had practically acquired its present dimensions, the number of estates was 6,075, the number of proprietors being 37,500, while the revenue had increased to Rs. 22,51,981, giving an average payment of Rs. 372 from each estate and of Rs. 60 from each individual proprietor or coparcener. The number of estates had thus quadrupled since the original assessment in 1790 and the Government land revenue had more than trebled, while the number of proprietors had increased out of all proportion to these changes.

INCREASE  
OF  
REVENUE  
AND  
ESTATES.

In 1900-01 the number of estates had still further increased to 12,727, and the proprietors numbered 119,538, while the current land revenue demand was Rs. 15,00,424, giving an average payment of Rs. 117 due from each estate and of Rs. 12-9 from each proprietor. Comparing these figures with those of 1870-71—and comparison with those of any earlier date apt to be misleading owing to the changes of jurisdiction which have taken place—it will be seen that the land revenue has decreased by more than a third, the number of estates has more than doubled; the number of proprietors has more than trebled, the incidence of the assessment for each estate is less than a third, and the incidence for each proprietor is a little more than a fifth. This subdivision of estates is the result of the family system which prevails, but it gives some insight into the effect which that system has on the landed classes, when it is seen that the average revenue paid by each landed proprietor, which in 1790, was Rs. 507, had by 1900 fallen as low as Rs. 12-9. Incidentally, it has caused an increased strain on the administration in dealing with the greater number of separate revenue payers. In 1905-06 the number of revenue-paying estates had increased to 13,117 and the current demand of land revenue to Rs. 15,11,015.

LAND  
TENURES.

In Patna as in other parts of Bengal, a longer or shorter chain of intermediate land-holders is generally met with. At one end of the chain stands the proprietor or *malik*, who holds the estate from Government under the Permanent Settlement and pays his land-tax direct to the Government Treasury. At the other end is the actual cultivator, called the *jotdar* or *kashdkar*. There are a number of intermediate tenures between the *malik* and the actual cultivator, many of which partake of a *zar-i-peshgi* nature, i.e., they have been granted by the *zamindar* in consideration of a money advance or mortgage loan. The most common of these tenures are *mukarari* and *thika* leases. The *mukarari* is a lease from the landlord at a fixed rent, which may be either perpetual or temporary, terminating in the latter case with the life of the lessee; when the lessee grants a similar sublease, the latter is known as *dar-mukarari*. *Thika* or *ijara* is a temporary lease for a definite term held direct from the actual or virtual proprietor of the land. The *thikadar* or *ijaradar* takes the place of the proprietor, who can only interfere on the ground that his ultimate rights are being prejudiced, or on the lease-holder failing to pay the fixed rent. The sub-lessee holding a lease from the *thikadar* is called a *kathanadar*, and the tenure held by him a *kathanada*; lower down still in the chain of sub-infeudation is the

*dar-katkanādar*, who holds a subordinate tenure under the *katkanādar*.

The peculiar tenures which exist under the *bhāoli* and *sagū* systems obtaining in this district have been already described in Chapter IX; and the only other tenures calling for special mention are the rent free or *lakhrāj* tenures. These were once very numerous, and Buchanan Hamilton estimated that over one-third of the tenures were free of revenue. Most of these have been resumed, but some still exist of a special nature, such as *alianghā* grants (*āl*, red, and *anghā*, a seal) or lands given in perpetuity as a reward for conspicuous military service; *madadmāsh* grants (*madad*, assistance, and *māsh*, livelihood) or lands granted to favourites and others for their personal expenses; *nankar* or maintenance grants; and a number of religious grants, such as *brahmottar*, *khairāt*, etc.

The tenants, as a rule, are very ignorant, though they are gradually beginning to acquire a knowledge of their rights, and, on the other hand, the landlords are being driven to greater exactions by the minute subdivision of proprietary rights and by the rise in their scale of expenditure which has taken place. As a general principle, it may be said that the larger the estate, the more reasonable are the zamindars' demands, while the petty proprietor is more grasping in his dealings with his tenants and more unscrupulous in the means which he takes to increase their rents. In the small subdivided and coparcenary properties the rent of each field is of importance to the petty landlord, and his efforts to enhance it lead to friction between him and his ryots and to the harassment of the latter. When, moreover, an estate is let in farm, unless for special reasons the rent payable for the farm is designedly low, the evils which attend petty proprietorship are intensified and exaggerated, and the ryots groan under the yoke of the *thikādar*.

Unfortunately in this district the majority of the estates are small, and the practice of farming them out is common. The worst area in the district is reported to be in the Bārhi subdivision and in the south of the Dinapore subdivision. In the Bārhi subdivision the landlords, being mainly absentees, leave the management of their lands to agents, who try to benefit themselves as much as possible; and in the south of the Dinapore subdivision relations between the ryots and their landlords are very strained owing to the exactions of the latter. There is also a certain amount of friction in the Bihār subdivision in consequence of landlords claiming their tenants' land as land under their own cultivation.

RELATIONS OF  
LAND-  
LORDS  
AND TEN-  
ANTS.



PARGANAS. The following is a list of the *parganas* or fiscal divisions into which the district is divided for the purposes of land revenue administration :—

Pargana.	Area in acres.	Thānas within which situated.
	Acres. R. P.	
1. Azimābād ...	88,657 1 38	Azimābād, Phulwāri, Pīrbahar, Sultānganj, Alamganj, Khwāja Kalān, Chāuk Kalān, Malsālamī, Fatwā, Masaurhi and Bākarganj.
2. Baikānthpur ...	1,754 2 35	Fatwā.
3. Ballia ...	65,561 3 32	Bikrām, Masaurhi, Phulwāri and Fatwā.
4. Bhimpur ...	44,295 1 9	Fatwā, Barh, Mokāmeh and Hilsa.
5. Bihār ...	135,718 3 23	Barh and Bihār.
6. Bīwak ...	98,042 0 14	Barh, Bihār, Silāo and Islāmpur.
7. Ghīyāspur ...	274,939 0 20	Fatwā, Barh, Mokāmeh, Bihār and Hilsa.
8. Māldah ...	198 1 6	Bihār.
9. Maner ...	124,204 3 24	Dinapore, Maner, Bikrām, Masaurhi, Phulwāri, and Hilsa.
10. Masāudāh ...	110,930 0 6	Bikrām, Masaurhi.
11. Narhat ...	3,198 2 33	Bihār and Silāo.
12. Okri ...	968 3 15½	Masaurhi and Islāmpur.
13. Phulwāri ...	46,322 3 29	Dinapore, Maner, Bikrām, Phulwāri and Masaurhi.
14. Pilich ...	89,722 0 19½	Masaurhi, Fatwā, Barh, Bihār, Silāo, Islāmpur, Hilsa and Chāndī.
15. Rājgir ...	24,494 0 0	Silāo.
16. Samāi ...	9,098 2 2	Bihār and Silāo.
17. Sangut ...	248 0 13	Silāo and Islāmpur.
18. Sānda ...	82,182 3 20	Masaurhi, Phulwāri, Fatwā, Mokāmeh, Hilsa and Chāndī.
19. Shāhajānpur ...	39,323 0 2	Fatwā, Barh, Bihār and Hilsa.
20. Telārha ...	104,887 2 1	Masaurhi, Bihār, Silāo, Islāmpur, Hilsa and Chāndī.

## CHAPTER XIII.

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

For administrative purposes the district is divided into five subdivisions, viz., Bankipore, Bārh, Bihār, Dinapore and Patna city. The Bankipore or headquarters subdivision is under the direct supervision of the Collector, while each of the other subdivisions is in charge of a Subdivisional Officer. At Bankipore the Collector is assisted by a staff of Deputy Collectors, consisting generally of five officers, one of whom is usually a Joint-Magistrate; and in addition to this staff, there are two officers engaged on special branches of work, viz., a Deputy Collector in charge of Excise and Income-tax and another Deputy Collector employed on partition work; an Assistant Magistrate and one or two Sub-Deputy Collectors are also generally posted there. The Subdivisional Officers of Bārh and Bihār are each usually assisted by a Sub-Deputy Collector. In the Dinapore subdivision the cantonment is in charge of a military officer acting as Cantonment Magistrate, the rest of the subdivision being administered by the Subdivisional Officer.

ADMINIS-  
TRATIVE  
CHARGES  
AND  
STAFF.

Bankipore is the headquarters of an Executive Engineer in charge of the Eastern Son Division, who is assisted by an Assistant Engineer and a Subdivisional Officer, the latter being stationed at Bikram. The Executive Engineer is directly responsible for the system of canal administration in this district, an account of which has already been given in Chapter VII.

Public  
Works  
Depart-  
ment.

The administration of the Opium Department is controlled by the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, who is immediately subordinate to the Opium Agent; he is usually assisted by an Assistant Opium Agent. Under the provisions of Act XIII of 1857, the Collector is *ex-officio* Deputy Opium Agent, but in practice he takes no part in the administration of the Department. The subordinate native establishment may be classified under two heads, viz., the office establishment, whose duties are clerical, and the subdivisional or *kothi* establishments, whose duties are principally executive. Among the latter the principal officer is the *gumāshta*, who is in

Opium  
Depart-  
ment.

charge of a *kothi* or subdivision; in this district there are three such *kothis* at present, viz., Masaurha, Phulwari and Telarha, but the number will, it is reported, shortly be reduced. The *gumashla* receives a fixed pay, and is assisted by *muharrirs* or native writers, each of whom is in charge of a certain number of beats, and by *zildars* or patois, each of the latter having the immediate supervision of the villages in his beat, which usually comprises a group of villages.

The poppy plant which produces the opium is cultivated under a system of licenses and advances made through a headman, known as the *khattadar*, chosen by the cultivators and approved by the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent. When the villages are large, two or more *khattadars* may be employed in each; when the villages are small, or the cultivation scattered, one may represent two or more villages. The first operation of the opium year is the "settlement" or engagement with the cultivators for a certain amount of land to be sown with poppy; settlements are conducted in August and September. The *khattadar*, when coming in to engage, brings with him a list of the cultivators who have agreed with him to grow opium, and is accompanied by any ryots who may wish to receive their licenses and advances personally. After the details have been settled, a joint license for the entire village and separate licenses for each individual cultivator are prepared, and an advance is paid to the *khattadar* by the *gumashla*. The payment is attested by a gazetted officer of the Department, and the *khattadar* disburses to all the cultivators present their separate amounts. After these payments have been acknowledged before the officer, the *khattadar* returns to his village, and distributes the advances and licenses to all the cultivators not present at the distribution centre. These payments are attested by the *muharrirs*, who also take the thumb impressions of the recipients.

Two advances are sanctioned for the cultivation of the poppy before the opium is brought in for weighment. The first advance is given at the time of entering into engagements with the cultivators; the second in January or February, after the crop is sufficiently advanced and the prospects are considered favourable. These advances are adjusted at the time of delivery of the opium. When the sowings are sufficiently advanced, the land under opium is measured by the *muharrirs*, and these measurements are tested by gazetted officers of the Department. Advances are also made to the cultivators for the construction of permanent masonry wells and for digging small temporary wells unprotected by masonry, for the purpose of irrigating their

fields. The advances made for the former are repayable by instalments, while those made for temporary wells are recovered during the opium weighments of the season.

An important part of the opium officer's duty is to supervise the weighments of opium in April, May and June. The cultivators are summoned in regular order to certain appointed weighing places, where the weighment of the opium is conducted under the direct supervision of the gazetted officers of the Department. The drug is classified according to its consistence, colour, texture and aroma by the officer in charge, who also examines it for adulteration. When, after examination, the drug is pronounced good, it is paid for at the rate of Rs. 6 per seer for opium containing 70 per cent. of solid opium or more, and at lower rates when the opium is adjudged to contain a smaller percentage of pure opium, the rates varying according to the percentage of opium. After classification at the Factory, the price is fixed according to the consistence then ascertained, and any amounts thus found to be due to the ryots are paid through the *khattādar* just before the settlements for the coming year are arranged, while any amounts due to the Department on account of previous over-classification are recovered as far as possible through the same agency. Should the opium be found to contain any foreign substance or be suspected of such, it is set aside for subsequent and more detailed examination by the Opium Examiner at the Factory; and on that officer's report, the opium is either confiscated or a deduction made from the value of it, according to the degree of adulteration.

The revenue of the district under the main heads rose from Rs. 27,73,000 in 1880-81 (when the income-tax had not been imposed) to Rs. 28,63,000 in 1890-91 and to Rs. 31,85,000 in 1900-01. In 1905-06 it amounted to Rs. 33,58,000, of which Rs. 15,15,000 were derived from land revenue, Rs. 8,64,000 from excise, Rs. 4,86,000 from cesses, Rs. 4,14,000 from stamps and Rs. 79,000 from income-tax. REVENUE

The collections of land revenue aggregated Rs. 14,83,000 in 1880-81, Rs. 14,76,000 in 1890-91, and Rs. 14,91,000 in 1900-01; and rose to Rs. 15,15,000 in 1905-06, when they accounted for nearly half of the total revenue of the district. In the year last named the current demand was Rs. 15,11,015 payable by 13,117 estates, Rs. 14,03,301 being due from 13,027 permanently-settled estates, Rs. 12,592 from 20 temporarily-settled estates, and Rs. 95,122 from 70 estates held direct by Government. Land revenue.

The excise revenue rose from Rs. 6,50,796 to Rs. 7,70,477 in the decade ending in 1900-01. Since that year there Excise.

has been a steady growth in the receipts, and in 1904-05 they amounted to Rs. 8,44,076, the increase during the quinquennium being 9.5 per cent.; the annual incidence of the excise revenue during this period was greater than in any other district in the Patna Division, averaging annas 8-1 per head of the population as compared with annas 3-3 for the whole Division. In 1905-06 the receipts from this source increased still further to Rs. 8,64,435, a total greater than that for any other district in the whole of Bengal. The net excise revenue was Rs. 5,131 per 10,000 of the population or a little over 8 annas a head, as compared with the Provincial average of Rs. 2,876 per 10,000.

The greater portion of the excise revenue is derived from the sale of the country spirit prepared by distillation from molasses and the flower of the *mahuā* tree (*Bassia latifolia*). The receipts from this source amounted in 1905-06 to Rs. 6,11,111 or nearly two-thirds of the total excise revenue. The manufacture and sale of country spirit are carried on under what is known as the dual system, i.e., there is a central distillery which serves Patna, Bankipore, Dinapore, Phulwāri and Digha and a small area round these places, and there are outstills for the supply of the rest of the district. There are 44 shops for the sale of distillery liquor and 88 selling outstill liquor, i.e., one retail shop for the sale of country spirit to every 12,310 persons; the average consumption of the former liquor is 228 proof gallons and of the latter 79 proof gallons per 1,000 of the population. The consumption of the fermented liquor known as *tāri* is not so great, but in 1905-06 its sale brought in Rs. 1,31,501. Imported liquors have found no favour with the mass of the population both because they are unable to afford them, and also because they prefer the country spirit and *tāri* they have drunk for generations past. The receipts from both the latter represent an expenditure of Rs. 4,596 per 10,000 of the population, a figure higher than in any district in Bengal except Darjeeling. According to these returns, the people of Patna are the hardest drinkers in the portion of the Gangetic plain comprised within Bengal.

The receipts from hemp drugs and opium account for practically all the remainder of the excise revenue. The greater part is derived from the duty and license fees on *ganja*, i.e., the dried flowering tops of the cultivated female hemp plant (*Cannabis sativa*) and the resinous exudation on them. Opium is consumed



more largely than in any other district in the Division, the receipts aggregating Rs. 147 per 10,000 of the population, as compared with the Divisional average of Rs. 41 per 10,000.

The road and public works cesses are, as usual, levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee. The current demand in 1905-06 was Rs. 4,58,481, the greater part of which (Rs. 4,32,806) was payable by 22,293 revenue-paying estates, while Rs. 21,719 were due from 1,159 revenue-free estates and Rs. 3,956 from 1,158 rent-free lands. The number of tenures assessed to cesses was 16,879 or about two-thirds the number of estates, while the number of recorded share-holders of estates and tenures was 111,023 and 17,936 respectively.

The revenue from stamps ranks next in importance as a source of income to that derived from cesses. During the ten years ending in 1905-06 it increased by nearly 20 per cent., rising from Rs. 3,47,501 to Rs. 4,14,243. The increase is mainly due to the growing demand for judicial stamps, which brought in Rs. 3,04,907 as compared with Rs. 2,40,497 in 1895-96; the receipts from this source have thus increased by over 25 per cent. in the last ten years. The sale of court-fee stamps, which in 1905-06 realized Rs. 2,74,363, is by far the most important item in the receipts from judicial stamps. Among non-judicial stamps, impressed stamps account for Rs. 96,276 or nearly the whole of the receipts under this head.

In 1901-02 the income-tax yielded altogether Rs. 81,135 paid by 2,292 assesses, of whom 1,195 paying Rs. 13,680 had incomes of Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000. At that time the minimum income assessable was Rs. 500, but this was raised in 1903, by the Income Tax Amendment Act of that year, to Rs. 1,000 per annum, thereby affording relief to a number of petty traders, money-lenders and clerks; and the number of assesses consequently fell in 1903-04 to 1,108, the net collections being Rs. 82,248. In 1905-06 the amount collected was Rs. 79,152 paid by 1,105 assesses. Of these, 491 paying Rs. 40,000, are inhabitants of Patna city, where the incidence of tax is under a third of an anna per head of the population. The realizations are chiefly on account of grain and money-lending, the renting of houses and trade.

There are 9 offices for the registration of assurances under Act II of 1877. At the headquarters station (Bankipore) the District Sub-Registrar deals, as usual, with the documents presented there, and assists the District Magistrate, who is *ex-officio* District Registrar, in supervising the proceedings of the

Sub-Registrars who are in charge of the other registration offices. The average number of documents registered annually during the quinquennium

Name.	Documents registered.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
		Rs.	Rs.
Bankipore ...	4,656	19,775	5,350
Do. joint at Jhauganj ...	1,805	4,262	1,284
Bārī ...	2,129	3,365	1,362
Bihar ...	1,505	4,475	1,182
Dinapore ...	1,720	2,322	1,358
Hilsā ...	693	1,742	782
Masaurhi ...	652	1,810	742
Mokāmeh ...	879	1,679	909
Naubatpur ...	1,129	1,083	860
Total ...	15,168	40,613	13,829

ending in 1904 was 15,334, as against 14,886 in the preceding five years, the increase amounting to 3.1 per cent. The marginal statement shows the number of documents registered and the receipts and expenditure at each office in 1905.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

##### Civil Justice.

The civil courts are those of the District Judge, 3 Sub-Judges at Bankipore, 4 Munsifs at the same place and one Munsif at Bihār, and the Cantonment Magistrate of Dinapore, who is Judge of the Small Cause Court of that Cantonment.

The District Judge deals with civil appeals, and has probate, matrimonial and bankruptcy jurisdiction. The first Subordinate Judge deals with original suits above Rs. 1,000 in *parganas* Balliā, Masaurhi, Phulwāri, Maner and Azimābād, and is also vested with Small Cause Court powers. The second Subordinate Judge deals with original suits above Rs. 1,000 in *parganas* Haveli, Bihār, Rajgir, Biswak, Sānda, Bhāmpur, Telārha, Sanant, Samai, Narhat, Mālda and Okri; while the third Subordinate Judge deals with original suits above Rs. 1,000 in *parganas* Ghiyāspur, Baikāthpur, Shāhjāhānpur and Pilich. The first Munsif hears original suits up to Rs. 1,000 in Patna city and Bankipore, and has also Small Cause Court powers; the second Munsif hears original suits up to Rs. 1,000 in thānas Fatwā, Dinapore and Maner; the third Munsif decides original suits up to the same amount in thānas Bārī and Mokāmeh; and the fourth Munsif hears original suits in thānas Bikram and Masaurhi and has also Small Cause Court powers. The Munsif of Bihār decides original suits up to Rs. 1,000 for the whole subdivision. The Cantonment Magistrate of Dinapore has the powers of a Small Cause Court Judge up to Rs. 500 for suits instituted in the Cantonment.

The civil work dealt with by the different courts is very varied in character. Family quarrels give rise to partition suits and title suits in large numbers, and there are also suits in connection with trust and charitable properties. Land disputes

are the cause of numerous rent suits, and usury produces many suits relating to bonds and verbal loans.

Criminal justice is administered by the District and Sessions Judge, the District Magistrate and the various Deputy and Sub-Deputy Magistrates at the headquarters and subdivisional stations. Criminal Justice.  
The sanctioned staff at Bankipore consists of four Deputy Magistrates of the first class and one Deputy Magistrate of the second or third class, in addition to the District Magistrate. Besides these officers, an Assistant Magistrate and one or two Sub-Deputy Magistrates exercising second or third class powers are generally posted there. The Subdivisional Officers of Bārī, Bihār, Dinapore and Patna City are almost invariably officers vested with first class powers, and the two first named are usually each assisted by a Sub-Deputy Magistrate of the second class. There are also benches of Honorary Magistrates at Bankipore, Bārī, Bihār, Dinapore, Jhauganj, Khagaul, and Sadikpur, all of which exercise second class powers.

The most common class of crime, with the exception of thefts and burglaries, which are mostly undetected, consists of riots connected with land disputes or disputes arising out of cattle trespass and questions of irrigation. Both robberies and burglaries are more common than in other districts in the Patna Division; in the quinquennium ending in 1904 there were 76 cases of robbery and 12,054 cases of burglary, giving an annual average of 15 and 2,411 cases respectively. In the same period also the number of riots was higher than in any other district of the Division, amounting to 318 or 63 per annum. The majority of these riots however are of a petty nature. Criminal.

The district contains two distinctly criminal castes—the Banphars and the Dharhis. The Banphars, a name derived from *ban* (wood) and *phār* (to split), are a caste of boatmen, who are described as a perfect pest on the waterways frequented by them. They levy blackmail from stragglers of the up-country fleet near Patna and, it is said, commit crime on all the rivers of Bengal. The Dharhis are notorious criminals and look on thieving as their traditional occupation, so much so that a theft committed in another man's preserve without his consent is mentioned as a bar on intermarriage. At the present day many of them have become village *chaukidars* or work as field watchmen and field labourers, and a few cultivate their own land. They trace their origin to five men who were roasting a cow in a jungle near Rājgir, and hid themselves in the animal's skeleton when Krishna unexpectedly appeared on the scene. They are an extremely low caste, Criminal classes.

and eat pork, rats and fish of all kind, but draw the line at beef, fowls, eggs, lizards and vermin.

Three other classes also furnish an undue proportion of the criminal population, viz., Goālās, Dosādhs and castes of aboriginal descent, such as Musahars. Cattle-lifting and grain-thefts are the special crimes of the first class; lurking house-trespass of the second; and burglary and thefts of the third. The Goālās are continually engaged in that exasperating form of crime which consists of petty thefts of crops from granaries and fields, and they seldom lose an opportunity of grazing their cattle on a neighbour's crops. They are even more notorious for cattle-lifting, which they practise with equal boldness and success. The Dosādhs are a more contemptible class than the Goālās. With the same predilection for crime, they want the daring, the insolence and the physique which make the Goālā such a dangerous ruffian. Their crimes, therefore, are of a meaner description, such as petty thefts and skulking burglary. The low aboriginal tribes have also an evil reputation as criminals, but in their case crime is due as much to poverty as to anything else. They indulge mostly in petty thefts or burglary, but also join in robberies. Here, however, they are generally merely the employés of the bolder spirits who organize these outrages and serve simply for the sake of a petty share of the plunder.

Among the agricultural population the Bābhans are the most addicted to rioting. When the crops are on the ground, or the reservoirs full of water, the Bābhan's opportunity comes, and violent breaches of the peace occur. Besides this taste for rioting, they are remarkable for their litigiousness, and are ever ready to contest to the last halfpenny a neighbour's claim, or seize upon a poorer man's right. Their crookedness of mind has passed into a proverb, "*Bābhan bahut sidhā ho, to hasā ke aīā,*" i.e., "The straightest Bābhan is as crooked as a sickle."

POLICE.

For police purposes the district is divided into 16 thānas or police circles, viz.; Pīrbahar, Alanganj, Khwāja Kalān, Chauk Kalān, and Mālsālāmi in the Patna City subdivision; Phulwāri and Masaurhi in the Bankipore subdivision; Maner, Dinapore and Bikram in the Dinapore subdivision; Fatwā, Bārḥ and Mokāmeḥ in the Bārḥ subdivision; and Bihār, Hilsā and Islāmpur in the Bihār subdivision. There are also 42 outposts and beat-houses, and there are thus 58 centres for the investigation of crime. The police of each subdivision are in charge of an Inspector, and the general control is with the District Superintendent of Police, who usually has under him one Assistant Superintendent, stationed in Patna City, and occasionally another at Bankipore. The police

force in 1905 consisted of a District Superintendent of Police, 2 Assistant Superintendents of Police, 9 Inspectors, 54 Sub-Inspectors, 1 Sergeant, 98 Head-Constables and 1,230 Constables. The total strength of the regular police was therefore 1,395 men, representing one policeman to every  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles and to every 1,164 persons. There is also a small body of town police; and the rural force for the watch and ward of villages in the interior consists of 198 *dafadars* and 3,264 *chaukidars*.

There is a District Jail at Bankipore and a subsidiary jail JAILS. at each of the outlying subdivisional stations of Bārḥ and Bihār, besides a lock-up at Dinapore for under-trial prisoners. The jail at Bankipore has accommodation for 421 (393 male and 28 female) prisoners distributed as follows:—barracks without separate sleeping accommodation are provided for 285 male convicts, 28 female convicts, 14 juvenile convicts, 28 under-trial prisoners, and 10 civil prisoners; there are observation cells for 28 prisoners; the hospital has accommodation for 25 prisoners; and there are separate cells for 3 male convicts. The principal industry is breaking-up stone for road-metalling; and the manufacture of carpets and mustard oil is also carried on. The products are sold locally and supplied to other jails and to Government Departments. The sub-jail at Bārḥ has accommodation for 24 male and 4 female prisoners, and that at Bihār for 31 male and 4 female prisoners.



## CHAPTER XIV.

## LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

THE DISTRICT BOARD. OUTSIDE municipal areas, local affairs are managed by the District Board and by the Local Boards of Patna, Dinapore, Barr and Bihār. The District Board is responsible for the maintenance of roads, bridges and roadside rest-houses, the management of pounds and public ferries, and the control over dispensaries. The District Board, which was established in October 1886, consists of 25 members. The District Magistrate is an *ex-officio* member of the Board and is invariably its Chairman; there are 6 other *ex-officio* members; 6 members are nominated by Government, and 12 are elected. Government servants and the landholding class predominate among the members, the former representing 28 per cent. and the latter 56 per cent. of the total number, while pleaders and mukhtārs account for 16 per cent.

Income. The average annual income of the District Board during the 10 years ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 2,61,000, of which Rs. 1,93,000 were derived from rates; and during the quinquennium ending in 1904-05 it amounted to Rs. 3,17,000. In 1905-06 the opening balance was Rs. 86,000, and the receipts of the year aggregated Rs. 3,58,000, including Rs. 2,30,600 obtained from Provincial rates, Rs. 13,000 contributed from Provincial revenues, and Rs. 12,000 realized from tolls on ferries and Rs. 7,000 from pounds. In Patna, as in other districts, the road cess is the principal source of income; the incidence of taxation is light, being only 2 annas 7 pies per head of the population. The income both from pounds and ferries is a fluctuating one. In the quinquennium ending in 1899-1900 the average annual receipts from pounds were Rs. 3,400; in the next quinquennium they were Rs. 5,100, and in 1905-06 altogether Rs. 7,000 were obtained from 37 pounds leased out by the Board. Similarly, as regards ferries, the receipts averaged Rs. 5,500 per annum in the first quinquennium, and Rs. 10,400 in the five years ending in 1904-05, and rose to Rs. 12,000 in 1905-06. Among other sources of income may be mentioned the receipts from the Bakhtyārpur-Bihār Light Railway. The District Board has

guaranteed 4 per cent. interest on the capital (8 lakhs) of this railway, and is entitled to receive half of any profits which may be obtained in excess of that amount. It has not yet been called upon to pay anything in respect of the guarantee, and in 1904-05 it received Rs 10,367 as its share of the profits.

The average annual expenditure during the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 2,73,000, of which Rs. 1,61,000 were expended on civil works, Rs. 33,000 on medical relief and Rs. 29,000 on education. During the quinquennium ending in 1904-05 the expenditure averaged Rs. 3,06,000 per annum, and in 1905-06 it amounted to Rs. 2,86,000, leaving the large balance of Rs. 1,46,000. By far the largest portion of the income of the District Board is spent on civil works, i.e., the extension and maintenance of communications, the upkeep of staging bungalows, the construction of buildings, and the provision of a proper water-supply. Over Rs. 1,70,000 were spent on these objects in 1905-06, and of this sum nearly Rs. 1,30,000 were allotted to the extension and maintenance of communications. The District Board now maintains 106 miles of metalled roads and 486 miles of unmetalled roads, besides a number of village tracks with an aggregate length of 688 miles; the cost of maintaining these roads in 1905-06 was Rs. 299, Rs. 41 and Rs. 16 per mile, respectively. After civil works, education constitutes the heaviest charge on the resources of the Board, entailing in 1905-06 an expenditure of Rs. 45,000 or nearly one-sixth of its total expenditure. It maintains 6 Middle schools and gives grants-in-aid to 1 Middle school, 21 Upper Primary schools and 859 Lower Primary schools.

For the relief of sickness the Board maintains 11 dispensaries, and aids four others; and when cholera breaks out in the interior it despatches native doctors with medicines to the affected villages. The sanitary work done by the District Board is of a somewhat varied character. It includes preventive measures against plague, cholera, and other epidemics, sanitary arrangement at fairs, the construction, repair and improvement of wells, and experiments in village sanitation, such as the clearance of jungle, the excavation of drains and the filling up of hollows containing stagnant water. During 1905-06 the Board spent no less than 12.5 per cent. of its ordinary income on medical relief and sanitation, by far the highest percentage in the whole Division. It also gives scholarships to students in the Temple Medical School, the Bihār School of Engineering, and the Bengal Veterinary College at Belgāchia; and it contributes to the Patna Municipality a moiety of the cost of maintenance of the Veterinary Dispensary.

LOCAL  
BOARDS.

There are 4 Local Boards, viz., Patna with an area of 317 square miles, Dinapore (419 square miles), Bārḥ (524 square miles), and Bihār (785 square miles). The Patna Local Board has 9 members, of whom 3 are nominated and 6 are elected; the Dinapore Local Board has 12 members, 4 being nominated and 8 elected; the Bārḥ Local Board consists of 9 members, of whom 3 are nominated and 6 are elected; and the Bihār Local Board of 12 members (4 nominated and 8 elected). Patna is the only district in the Division in which the elective system is in force, but there appears to be a growing tendency on the part of the influential and intelligent land-holders to abstain from competing with agriculturists, and the elections excite little interest. Thus, in 1905-06, when the seventh general election was held, two thānas in the Bārḥ subdivision and one thāna in Dinapore failed to elect any members. The land-holding classes represent 76·7 per cent., pleaders and mukhtārs 16·3 per cent., Government servants 4·7 per cent., and Government pensioners 2·9 per cent. of the members.

The Local Boards have been entrusted with the maintenance of village roads and the supervision of village sanitation. The latter is carried out on a systematic plan, progress being inspected by the Chairmen and members of the Boards. Sweepers are employed for the cleansing of the larger villages in each subdivision and are placed under a headman. This scheme for cleaning rural towns and villages is being carried out satisfactorily, and has been commended as a model to be followed by other Local Boards in the Province.

MUNICI-  
PALITIES.

At the close of the year 1905-06 there were 4 municipalities in the district, viz., Patna, Bārḥ, Bihār and Dinapore. The number of rate-payers was 43,673, representing 20 per cent. of the total number (222,912) of persons residing within municipal limits, as compared with the average of 18 per cent. for the whole Division. The average incidence of taxation in that year was annas 13·6 per head of the population, as against the Divisional average of annas 12·11, and varied from annas 14·2 in Patna to annas 9·10 in Bārḥ. It is proposed to establish a fifth municipality at Khagaul.

## Patna.

The Patna Municipality, which was established in 1864, is administered by a Municipal Board consisting of 31 Commissioners, of whom 20 are elected, 7 are nominated, and 4 are *ex officio* members. The area within municipal limits is 9 square miles, including not only Patna city but also Bankipore; and for administrative purposes it is divided into 6 wards, viz., Bankipore, Pirbahar, Alamganj, Khwāja Kalān, Chauk Kalān, and Malsālamī. The number of rate-payers is 29,612, representing

19.9 per cent. of the population. The average income of the municipality during the 5 years 1895-96 to 1899-1900 was Rs. 1,85,500, and the expenditure was Rs. 1,70,000; in the quinquennium ending in 1904-05 they were Rs. 2,15,600 and Rs. 1,89,000, respectively. In 1905-06 the income aggregated Rs. 2,51,000, besides an opening balance of Rs. 26,500. The chief source of income is a rate on holdings assessed at  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on their annual value, which in that year brought in Rs. 85,000; and next in importance comes a latrine fee levied at the same rate, which realized Rs. 21,000; the total incidence of taxation is annas 14.2 per head of the population. The expenditure in the same year was Rs. 1,86,000, excluding Rs. 50,000 expended in advances, deposits and the repayment of loans, and the closing balance was Rs. 41,000. The principal items of expenditure are conservancy, medical relief and public works, which accounted for 25.5, 19.2 and 15.9 per cent. respectively of the disbursements.

The greatest and most urgent need of the Patna Municipality is a good drainage system. Between the years 1893 and 1895 a drainage scheme was carried out at a cost of Rs. 2,67,730, but this was defective as it was unaccompanied by proper flushing arrangements. Two schemes were however carried out in 1894 and 1900, by which  $4\frac{1}{2}$  square miles out of the total area are flushed. A new flushing scheme, the cost of which, excluding the existing scheme, is estimated at over a lakh of rupees, has been mooted, but had to be given up as the financial condition of the municipality would not allow of its execution. Another great want is the provision of a proper water-supply; but the resources of the municipality have been severely strained by plague, and its income is inadequate for this and other reforms. The task of municipal administration is, in fact, harder than elsewhere in the Division, as the need of very large funds is great and the possibility of an expansion of income is remote. With a debt already amounting to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs, with its population reduced by the ravages of plague, and with the consequent diminution of its income, the immediate prospects of the municipality are far from hopeful.

Bārā was constituted a municipality in 1870 and has a Municipal Board consisting of 10 members, of whom 6 are elected, 3 are nominated and one is an *ex-officio* member. The area within municipal limits is 2.87 square miles, divided into 4 wards, Chāndī, Salimpur, Fatehpur and Walipur; the number of rate-payers is 2,247 or 18.4 per cent. of the population. The average annual income during the 5 years ending in 1899-1900 was Rs. 6,500, and the expenditure was Rs. 6,000; and in the

quinquennium ending in 1904-05 they were Rs. 9,300 and Rs. 9,100 respectively. In 1905-06 the income of the municipality was Rs. 9,800, of which Rs. 6,500 were obtained from a personal tax, which is levied at 1 per cent. per annum on the circumstances and property of the rate-payers; the incidence of taxation was only annas 9-10 per head of the population. The expenditure in the same year was Rs. 10,100, the principal items being conservancy, which accounted for 22·8 per cent. of the disbursements, public works (18·2 per cent.) and medical relief (17·4 per cent.).

Bihār.

Bihār was constituted a municipality in 1869 and has a Municipal Board consisting of 12 Commissioners, of whom 8 are elected, 2 are nominated and 2 are *ex-officio* members. The area within municipal limits is 8 square miles, divided into 4 wards, and the number of rate-payers is 6,936, representing 20·3 per cent. of the population. The average annual income during the 5 years ending in 1899-1900 was Rs. 20,900 and the expenditure Rs. 19,750; in the next quinquennium ending in 1904-05 they were Rs. 37,800 and Rs. 36,100 respectively. In 1905-06 the income was Rs. 38,850, of which nearly half or Rs. 17,000 was derived from a personal tax levied at the rate of 1 per cent. according to the circumstances and property of the assesses. There is also a latrine fee levied at the rate of Rs. 4-11 and Rs. 5-7-6 per cent. per annum on the annual value of holdings, which brought in Rs. 5,600. The total incidence of taxation is 12 annas per head of the population. The expenditure in the same year amounted to Rs. 33,850, of which 34·4 per cent. was spent on conservancy, 20·8 per cent. on medical relief and 9·9 per cent. on public works.

Dinapore.

Dinapore was constituted a municipality in 1887 and has a Municipal Board consisting of 19 Commissioners, of whom 12 are elected, 6 are nominated and one is an *ex-officio* member. The area within municipal limits is 4·94 square miles, divided into 4 wards; the number of rate-payers is 4,878 or 21·3 per cent. of the population. The average annual income in the 5 years ending in 1899-1900 was Rs. 16,850, and the expenditure was Rs. 13,950; in the next quinquennium ending in 1904-05 they were Rs. 22,100 and Rs. 16,800 respectively. In 1905-06 the receipts were Rs. 30,750, the chief sources of income being a rate on holdings which brought in Rs. 11,650; this tax is assessed at 7½ and 6½ per cent. per annum on the annual value of holdings. The total incidence of taxation is annas 13-5 per head of the population. The expenditure in the same year was Rs. 17,310, of which 42 per cent. was spent on conservancy, 16·2 per cent. on public works, and 13·2 per cent. on medical relief; the closing balance was greater than the year's expenditure, amounting to Rs. 21,600.



It is proposed to create a municipality for the town of Khagaul, Khagaul. in consideration of the fact that, as the town is increasing rapidly and becoming an important railway centre, it is necessary that there should be some means of providing for its conservancy and for ensuring that its future growth shall be on lines consistent with proper sanitation and the maintenance of free communication. The total area within municipal limits will be 1.14 square miles and the population 7,510. The probable annual income from taxation is estimated at about Rs. 5,000, and the East Indian Railway Company is willing to make a grant on account of sanitation equal to the amount formerly spent by it in cleaning the bazar and station, as a maximum contribution not to be exceeded unless a larger amount becomes leviable under the Municipal Act.

## CHAPTER XV.

## EDUCATION.

PROGRESS  
OF EDUCA-  
TION. c

THE state of education in the district a century ago may be gathered from the following account written in 1812 by Buchanan Hamilton:—"There are no public schools, and there is no *guru* or teacher who is not a servant to some wealthy man. The *gurus*, however, are generally allowed to instruct the children of the neighbours, and a hut is built for a school-house without the village, lest the *guru* should have too frequent opportunities of seeing the women. These school-houses are called *pindās*, a name applicable to several things considered sacred. In parts of the country where sugarcane grows, the boiling-house usually serves for a school." Persian was the language used in the courts, and many Hindus were taught to read and write the Persian character before they began Hindi; but the greater part of them proceeded little further than learning to understand and write a revenue account, and were not able either to understand or to indite a letter properly. Such an accomplishment entitled a man to be called a *munshi*. There were some half dozen Maulvis who instructed a few young men in Persian literature and Arabic science, and there were 38 Pandits teaching the three higher sciences of the Hindus, grammar, law and metaphysics; but by far the greater part of the landholders consisted of mere peasants, half of whom could not read, though the head of each family generally acquired the art of being able to make a mark resembling the characters which composed his name. The total number of persons fit to act as writers was estimated at nearly 20,000 or 1·2 per cent. of the population.

During the first half of the 19th century the State left the care of education to private enterprise; the only schools in the district were the *maktabs* and *pindās*, as the schools teaching Persian and Hindi were called; and nothing was done to supplement this indigenous system of education. In 1854 the famous educational despatch was issued, in which the Court of Directors laid down that Government should afford assistance to "the more extended and systematic promotion of general education in India,"

and sketched a complete scheme of public education, controlled and aided, and in part directly managed by the State. In accordance with these orders, Government began to establish schools, and in 1860-61 there were 9 vernacular schools maintained by it, the number of pupils under instruction being 399. In 1862 the Patna College was opened, and in 1870-71 there were, in addition to this institution, 23 Government and aided schools attended by 1,530 scholars. In 1872 Sir George Campbell's scheme of educational reform was introduced, under which grants were given in aid of schools hitherto unaided, and many of the indigenous rural schools called *pāthshālās* were absorbed into the departmental system.

A great stimulus was also given to higher education, and in 1880-81, besides the Patna College, there were 3 aided and 4 unaided High English schools with a total attendance of 781 boys; for imparting vernacular education there were 16 Middle Vernacular, 46 Lower Vernacular and 1,633 Primary schools teaching 927, 2,095 and 23,154 pupils, respectively; and in addition to these aided schools, there were 464 unaided institutions with 6,955 pupils. The Government Survey School and the Patna Normal school had 29 and 101 pupils respectively; the Temple Medical School, established in 1874, had 146 pupils; and there was a law school attached to the Patna College with 41 law students. At the end of the next decade there were 1,373 public and 612 private institutions containing 31,918 and 4,559 pupils respectively, making a total of 1,985 schools with 36,477 pupils; and in 1900-01 there were 1,626 schools with 38,162 pupils. In 1905-06 the district contained 1,755 schools with 38,933 pupils, besides one Government and one private college intended for higher education. For the supervision of these schools there is a staff consisting of a Deputy Inspector of Schools, 7 Sub-Inspectors of Schools and 18 Guru Instructors.

The preceding sketch shows a satisfactory rate of advance, and this impression is confirmed by the census statistics reproduced in the margin which shew the percentage of persons returned as literate, *i.e.*, as able to read and write. Literate population.

Year.	Males.	Females.
1881 . . .	6.7	0.9
1891 . . .	9.2	0.4
1901 . . .	12.3	0.6

In 1901 the total number of such persons was 104,275, representing 6.4 per cent. of the population, and of these 7,981 could read and write English. The proportion of males returned as literate is higher than in any other Bihār district.

The oldest European school in the district is St. Joseph's School at Bankipore, which was opened in 1853. This is a EUROPEAN EDUCATION.

Roman Catholic boarding and day school for girls, managed by the nuns of the convent; it has 50 boarders and 12 day scholars.

St.  
Michael's  
School,  
Kurji.

The only other European School is a boys' school, known as St. Michael's High School, which is situated at Kurji midway between Bankipore and Dinapore. This school owes its existence to Monsignor Zuber, Vicar Apostolic of Patna, who about 1854 purchased the grounds in which it stands, with the object of forming a community of native Christians. The Mutiny, however, wrecked the scheme, for the converts were dispersed, and the place was left without inmates. When order was restored, Dr. Hartmann, the then Vicar Apostolic of Patna, opened the building as an orphanage for children left parentless by the Mutiny, and this was the beginning of the present establishment. More buildings were added, and the institution gradually grew, till it became in course of time a large boarding house and orphanage combined. In 1894 it was handed over to the Irish Christian Brothers, under whose management it has become one of the leading schools in Bengal. The number of boys in the school is 283, including a large number of orphans; and the staff consists of six brothers and six secular teachers. The institution is not endowed in any way, but a grant regulated by the number of pupils is received annually from Government. The curriculum is that laid down in the Code for European schools in Bengal. Pupils are sent up annually for the Primary, Middle and High school examinations. The school has a volunteer cadet corps, which was first started in 1893.

INDIAN  
EDUCA-  
TION.

The district contains 2 first grade colleges, viz., the Patna College and the Bihār National College, the former being maintained by Government, while the latter is a private institution.

Patna  
College.

The Patna College was first opened as a Government school in 1860 under the local Committee of Public Instruction. In 1862 it was made a collegiate school, and in 1863 it was raised to the status of a college, a Law Department being added in 1864. All students who have passed the University Entrance Examination are admissible, and instruction is given up to the B.A. standard of the Calcutta University. Scholarships to the value of Rs. 1,152 are awarded annually, most of these being derived from the Kāzi Saiyid Reza Hussain endowments, which are intended for the benefit of Muhammadans. The staff consists of a Principal, 5 Professors and 2 Lecturers, besides a Law Lecturer. Among the former Principals of the college there have been two distinguished scholars whose researches have

thrown considerable light upon Indian history, Mr. J. W. McCrindle and Mr. C. R. Wilson. There is a collegiate school attached to the College, which is also under the control of the Principal.

The Bihār National College at Bankipore was founded in 1883 as a high class English school by Bābu Biseswar Singh, a pleader practising at Patna. In 1889 it was raised to the status of a College teaching up to the F. A. examination, and affiliated to the Calcutta University; in 1892 it was raised to the B.A. standard, and a law class was added. There are three scholarships, of a total value of Rs. 408, awarded annually. The institution, which is a purely private one unaided by Government, has a staff consisting of a Principal and 8 Professors and Lecturers.

Bihār  
National  
College.

There are 13 High English schools for boys with a total attendance in 1905-06 of 2,192 pupils; of these schools, two are maintained by Government and four receive grants-in-aid, the remainder being unaided institutions. The schools maintained by Government are the Patna Collegiate School and the Patna City School, and those aided by it are the High schools at Bihār, Dinapore and Khagaul and the Rāmmohan Roy Seminary. Of the unaided High schools one, the Bayley High School, is at Bārḥ; one, the Aryan High School, is at Dinapore; and five are within the municipal limits of Patna, viz., the Bihār National Collegiate School, T. K. Ghosh's Academy, and the Anglo-Arabic, Anglo-Sanskrit and Diamond Jubilee Schools. Besides these, there is a High school for girls, which will be mentioned in the paragraph dealing with female education.

Secondary  
education.

High  
Schools.

In 1905-06 there were 5 Middle English schools with 210 pupils and 6 Middle Vernacular schools with 318 pupils. Of the 5 Middle English schools, one is maintained by the District Board, 2 are aided by the same body, one is aided by Government, and the other is an unaided school. Of the 6 Middle Vernacular schools, one is under the direct control of the Education Department, while the rest are District Board schools. There is also a Middle English school for girls.

Middle  
Schools.

Prior to 1870-71 the district contained no Primary schools properly so called, but only the indigenous institutions known as *pindās* and *maktabs*, which had no properly qualified teachers. In that year 9 vernacular schools were opened, and in 1880-81 there were 1,633 Primary schools teaching 23,154 pupils. The number of boys' schools of this class fell to 1,260 in 1890-91, but the attendance rose to 26,541, and there were also 80 Primary schools for girls attended by 1,257 pupils. In 1900-01 there were 1,231

Primary  
education.



Primary schools teaching 30,226 pupils; and in the year 1905-06 the number of Upper Primary schools stood at 37 with 1,600 boys, and that of Lower Primary at 1,085 with 27,026 boys. Besides these, there were 79 girls' schools with an attendance of 1,131 girls. Altogether, there are 1,201 Primary schools, and the number of pupils under instruction is 29,757.

Special  
schools.

In 1905-06 there were 18 special schools, *i.e.*, institutions in which instruction of a special kind is given, and the number of students was 650. These institutions are varied in character. The most important are the Bihār School of Engineering and the Temple Medical School, of which a short account is given below. Besides these there are 3 aided and 7 unaided Sanskrit *Tols* and 5 Training schools, *viz.*, the Patna Training School and 4 schools for training *gurus* or Primary school teachers at Kanhauli, Masaurhi, Nursarai and Salimpur.

Bihār  
School of  
Engineering.

The Bihār School of Engineering owes its origin to a fund raised by the residents of Bihār to commemorate the visit of the present King-Emperor, when Prince of Wales, to Patna in 1876. It was formally opened as a School of Engineering in 1896. Admission is limited to Bihāris, natives of the United Provinces and Central Provinces, and Bengalis domiciled in Bihār, the United Provinces and Central Provinces; preference is, however, given to Bihāris. Candidates for admission must have passed the Entrance Examination of an Indian University or Standard VII of the European School Code or an equivalent examination held by the Principal at the commencement of each session. Students are prepared for overseerships in the Public Works Department, the course of studies being the same as that of the Apprentice Department of the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur. The school has a hostel attached to it, and a good workshop for teaching practical work; the staff consists of a head-master, second master and foreman mechanic under the general control of the Principal of the Patna College.

The Patna Medical School, which was opened in 1874, consists of a masonry building on the banks of the Ganges. There are 2 lecture theatres, and a new building for a pathological and *materia medica* museum is under construction, besides a new barrack for the accommodation of the students, whose number is limited to 170. The total accommodation in the new barrack after construction and the old barrack after alteration will be 120. The General Hospital at Bankipore is the clinical institution attached to the school; and both practical and clinical teaching are afforded there. The majority of the students are Bihāri Muhammadans, and a few are Bihāri Hindus and Bengalis;

a considerable proportion come from the Central Provinces, which contributes the largest number of students trained at Government expense.

The progress of Muhammadan education is shewn by the marginal table giving the number of Muhammadan education.

Year.	Number.
1880-81	171
1870-71	289
1890-91	4,536
1900-01	5,000

muhammadan boys studying in all classes of schools. In 1905-06 the number of Muhammadans in public schools was 3,012 and in private schools 2,032, making a total of 5,044 boys or 12.9 per cent. of the total number under instruction. As the

whole body of Muhammadans represents only 11.5 per cent. of the population, it would appear *prima facie* that they are not lagging behind the Hindus in this respect.

The development of female education in Patna is comparatively recent. The returns for 1880-81 shew only one school for girls with 65 pupils, and only 28 girls attending boys' schools. In 1890-91 the number of girls' schools had increased to 80 and the attendance to 1,257 girls, besides 317 girls reading in boys' schools, making a total of 1,574; and in 1901 there were 65 girls' schools with 939 pupils, in addition to 173 girls attending boys' schools. In 1905-06 there were one High English, one Middle English, and one Model Primary school for girls, teaching 57, 47 and 35 girls respectively, and 59 aided and 19 unaided schools with 839 and 257 pupils respectively; besides these, there were 456 girls receiving instruction in boys' schools. There were also 2 peripatetic lady teachers having 27 females under their tuition on the 31st March 1906, and 4 pupil teachers studying in the Training school for mistresses opened in 1904-05. Female education

The premier institution for the education of girls is the Bankipore Female High English school, which was founded in 1867 by some of the leading Bengalis of Patna. It teaches up to the Entrance Standard of the Calcutta University, and is aided by Local as well as Provincial Funds. The average number of girls attending it is about 50, nearly all of whom are Bengalis; a private home, where some of the girls live, is attached to the school.

In 1905-06 there were 6 hostels and boarding houses with 242 boarders, of which 2 were aided by Government, viz., the hostel attached to the Bihar School of Engineering and the boarding house of the Mission Girls' Middle English school. The rest were unaided. Hostels and boarding houses.

LIBRA-  
RIES.

The only public library in the district is the Patna Oriental Library, founded in 1890 by Khān Bahādur Khuda Baksh Khān, C.I.E. This library is accommodated in a building erected at the cost of the founder, and recently a reading hall has been constructed by Government, which also makes an annual grant towards its maintenance. The library, which contains a valuable collection of Oriental works and rare manuscripts, besides a large number of European books of reference, is used by all classes of the reading public.

## CHAPTER XVI.

## GAZETTEER.

**Atāsarai.**—See Islāmpur.

**Azīmābād.**—A name given to Patna city in 1704, by its Governor, Azim-us-Shān, a grandson of Aurangzeb. Patna is commonly called Azīmābād by the Muhammadan chroniclers after that time, and the name is still used by some of the inhabitants.

**Baikanthpur (or Baikathpur).**—A village in the Bārḥ subdivision, situated on the banks of the Ganges 5 miles to the east of Fatwā and one mile north of Khusrupur, a station on the East Indian Railway. Baikanthpur in the beginning of the 19th century was a large weaving centre extending over as large an area as Fatwā. The place is one of some sanctity, and large bathing festivals are held here; it also contains an old Saiva temple called Baikanth Nāth's temple. The mother of Akbar's general, Rājā Mān Singh, died here; and her son erected a *bārādūārī*, or hall with twelve doors, on the spot where her body was burned, besides endowing several temples. "On this occasion," writes Buchanan Hamilton "the Governor was favoured with a dream, in which he was informed of the place in the river where Jarāsandha had one day thrown an amulet that he usually wore on his arm; and such dreams being always true, the amulet was found. It is a stone representing a *linga*, adorned with four human heads. At the festival of the *Sivārātri*, 200,000 people are said to assemble here."

**Bakhtiyārpur.**—Village in the Bārḥ subdivision, situated in 25° 27' N. and 85° 32' E. Population (1901) 234. The village contains a police out-post, inspection bungalow, travellers' *sarai* and a station on the East Indian Railway, 22 miles from Patna and 310 miles from Calcutta. It is also the terminus of the Bakhtiyārpur-Bihār Light Railway running to Bihār, 18 miles to the south.

**Bānka Ghāt.**—A railway station 3 miles east of Patna, opened in 1900. A mile north of the station is a village called Jethuli, which contains 2 Muhammadan tombs, called the *kachhi dargāh* and the *pakki dargāh*. The former is the tomb of Shihāb-ud-dīn Jagjaut, who was, it is said, the father of the saints

of Bihār, being the father of Kamālo Bibi of Kako in the Gayā district, the father-in-law of Makhdūm Yahīa of Maner, and the grand-father of Makhdūm Sharif-ud-dīn of Bihār. The other *dargāh* is the tomb of Shāh Adam Sufi. It is a place of pilgrimage; the pious assemble there every Thursday, and an annual fair is held on the 21st day of Zikād, the 11th month of the Muhammadan year.

• **Bankipore.**—Headquarters of the Patna district, situated in 25° 37' N. and 85° 8' E on the southern bank of the Ganges, 338 miles from Calcutta. It forms part of the Patna Municipality, and is properly the western suburb of that city, but for practical purposes it is a separate town, being the civil station in which the official and non-official population reside. On the west is Dinapore, with which it is connected by a road, 6 miles in length, lined throughout with houses and cottages; in fact, Dinapore, Bankipore and Patna practically form one continuous narrow city hemmed in between the Ganges and the railway. This extension of the city is comparatively modern, for Forrest in his "Tour along the Ganges and Jumna" (published in 1824) says: "The road from Bankipore to Dinapore is beautiful, the greater part being through a very richly wooded country."

The centre of Bankipore may be taken as the Maidān, a wide open space containing a race-course and golf links. Round or in the neighbourhood of this are the European residences, police lines, Protestant church, club, judicial courts and other public buildings. The whole appearance of the place is somewhat picturesque on account of the fine Maidān, the large houses, and the well laid out gardens surrounding it and lining the river bank. To the south lies the railway station in the quarter called Mithāpur, and close by are the district jail, lunatic asylum, dāk bungalow, and a *sarai* constructed a few years ago by a Hindu gentleman for the accommodation of travellers. The railway station is the junction for the Patna-Gayā line to the south and for the Digha Ghāt line to the Ganges on the north, which connects with the Bengal and North-Western Railway.

Bankipore is not only the principal civil station, but also the headquarters of the Commissioner of the Patna Division, the Opium Agent of Bihār, the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Bihār Range, the Executive Engineer in charge of the Eastern Son Division, the Inspector of Schools, Patna Division, and the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Bihār and Chotā Nagpur Circle, all of whom have their offices here.

At once, the most prominent and the most curious building in Bankipore is the old Government granary known as the Golā.



This is a brick building, 96 feet high with walls 12 feet thick at the bottom, built in the shape of a beehive or half an egg placed on end, with spiral two staircases on the outside winding to the top; it is said that Jang Bahādur of Nepal rode on horseback up one and down the other. This dome-shaped structure was erected 16 years after the great famine of 1770 as a store-house for grain, it being intended that the grain should be poured in at the top and taken out at the bottom through the small doors there: owing to a curious mistake on the part of the builders, these doors were made to open inwards. The following inscription is on the outside—

“No. 1.—In part of a general plan ordered by the Governor-General and Council, 20th of January 1784, for the perpetual prevention of Famine in these Provinces, this Granary was erected by Captain John Garstin, Engineer. Completed the 20th of July 1786. First filled and publicly closed by—”

The storehouse has never been filled, and so the blank in the inscription still remains, while the opening at the top is closed by a great stone slab. It stands to this day the monument of a mistake. During the famine of 1874 a quantity of grain, which, if left at the railway station, might have been injured by the rain, was temporarily stored there; and in times of scarcity proposals are still made to fill it with grain. But the loss from damp, rats and insects renders such a scheme of storing grain wasteful and impracticable. This building, once intended to meet the requirements of the whole district in time of famine, is now only useful as a store-house for furniture. It is chiefly remarkable for its reverberating echo, which answers to the slightest sound, a whisper at one end being repeated at the other. It is a land-mark for a considerable distance along the river and commands a fine view of the surrounding country.

Of the other buildings the most interesting are the Opium Agent's house, which was formerly the residence of the Dutch Factory Superintendent, and the Chajju Bāgh, now an occasional residence of the Lieutenant-Governor, which was formerly occupied by Mr. William Tayler, Commissioner of Patna from 1854 to 1857. Here the Europeans took refuge during the anxious days of the Mutiny, and here was held the conference described in Chapter II, at the close of which the Wahābi leaders were arrested.

The Protestant Church, Christ Church, was completed in 1857; it seats 120 persons. The Church of England Chaplain also ministers to the outlying stations of Arrah, Buxar, Chaprā, Siwān and Gulzārbāgh. The Roman Catholic Church, St.

Joseph's, was opened in 1850. Bankipore is the headquarters of several Christian missions, viz., the Baptist Mission, the Baptist Zanāna Mission, and a Medical Mission, which is much appreciated by the native population. The Roman Catholic Church maintains a convent called the St. Joseph's convent for nuns of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary; to this are attached an orphanage for native girls and another for European and Eurasian girls, and a girls' boarding and day school, called St. Joseph's School. Among educational institutions the most important are the Bihār National College, founded in 1883, and the Female High School, established in 1867.

Though Bankipore has few old buildings, it is historically of some interest. In the times of the Muhammadan Governors it was occasionally used as a camping ground, and it was here that Ali Vardi Khān assembled his troops before marching against Sarfarāz Khān in 1740. After the British conquest, it was a cantonment before Dinapore was made a military station. While occupied by the 3rd Brigade in 1766, part of the cantonment was burnt down, and this occurrence brought to light the "White Mutiny," which Clive suppressed. The court martial proved that this fire was not due to incendiarism, but in the course of the enquiry the combination among the discontented officers was discovered. In April 1766 they addressed a memorial to Clive about the reduction of their *battā* or allowance, but when Clive arrived at Bankipore, they submitted and withdrew their resignations.

Memorials of this period are found in the tomb of one Anne Roberts in the Commissioner's compound, which dates back to 1768, and in the tomb of "the truly gallant Ranfurlie Knox" who died here in 1764; a lofty monument to his memory stands in the Civil Court compound. This was the officer who, as related in Chapter II, made the memorable march from Burdwan to relieve Patna in 1760, drove off the besieging army, and then with Shitāb Rai, the Governor of the city, defeated another force at Hajipur. In the evening after the engagement Knox returned to the factory with Shitāb Rai covered with dust and blood, exclaiming to the officers gathered there, "This is a real Nawāb! I never saw such a Nawāb in my life." The last descendant of Shitāb Rai is still living at Patna. Knox conducted the siege operations when Patna was taken by the English on November 23rd 1763, and died a little more than 2 months afterwards. In the neighbouring cemetery the most interesting grave is that of Dr. Lyell, who was shot by a rebel in Patna near the Chāuk in 1857.

The name Bankipore has been explained as meaning the city of the *banks* or fop, on account of its being the quarter of women of ill-fame, to which fashionable young men resorted. Another suggestion, however, is that it means merely the city on the bend (*bank*) of the river.

**Bankipore Subdivision.**—Headquarters subdivision lying between  $25^{\circ} 12'$  and  $25^{\circ} 40'$  N. and between  $84^{\circ} 42'$  and  $85^{\circ} 17'$  E. with an area of 334 square miles. The subdivision is bounded on the north by the Ganges, on the south by the Gayā district, on the east by the Bārḥ and Bihār subdivisions, and on the west by the Dinapore subdivision. It is entirely a flat alluvial plain, intersected by the Pūnpūn, Morhar and Dardhā, which flow from south-west to north-east into the Ganges.

Owing to plague mortality, the desertion of their homes by the inhabitants, and partially to defective enumeration due to these circumstances, the population recorded in 1901 was only 341,054, as compared with 404,304 in 1891. This population resides in 975 villages and 2 towns, Patna (population 134,785) and Phulwāri (3,415); owing to the great proportion included in Patna city, the density of population is very great, viz., 1,021 persons to the square mile. The headquarters of the subdivision are at Bankipore, which is within the municipal limits of Patna city. The latter was dealt with as part of the Bankipore subdivision at the census, but for administrative purposes it is treated as a separate subdivision under the City Magistrate, and will therefore be mentioned in a subsequent article.

**Bargāon.**—Village in the Bihār subdivision, situated in  $25^{\circ} 8'$  N. and  $85^{\circ} 26'$  E., 7 miles north of Rājgir and 6 miles south-west of Bihār. Population (1901) 597. "Bargāon," writes Mr. Broadley, "has been identified, beyond the possibility of a doubt, with that Vīlāra-grām on the outskirts of which, more than 1,000 years ago flourished the great Nālanda monastery, the most magnificent and most celebrated seat of Buddhist learning in the world. When the caves and temples of Rājagriha were abandoned to the ravages of decay, and when the followers of Tathāgata forsook the mountain dwellings of their great teacher, the monastery of Nālanda arose in all its splendour on the banks of the lakes of Bargāon. Successive monarchs vied in its embellishment; lofty pagodæ were raised in all directions; halls of disputation and schools of instruction were built between them; shrines, temples and towers were constructed on the side of every tank and encircled the base of every tower; and around the whole mass of religious edifices were grouped the 'four-storied' dwellings of the preachers and teachers of Buddhism." The monastery of Nālanda,

the Oxford, as it has been called, of Buddhist India,\* was a centre from which Buddhist philosophy and teaching were diffused over Southern Asia; and it continued to be a great Buddhist university till the Muhammadan conquest. According to Hiuen Tsiang, the Chinese pilgrim of the seventh century, who himself resided there for some years, it contained numerous temples, pagodas and shrines, and was the home of 10,000 monks, renowned for their learning, who spent their lives in the pursuit of wisdom. There appears to have been a severe kind of Entrance or Matriculation Examination. "If men of other quarters desire to enter," says Hiuen Tsiang, "the keeper of the gate proposes some hard questions; many are unable to answer and retire. One must have studied deeply both old and new books before getting admission. Those students, therefore, who come here as strangers, have to show their ability by hard discussion; those who fail, compared with those who succeed, are as seven or eight to ten." From this monastery Padma-Sambhava, the founder of Lāmaism, went to Tibet in 747 A. D. at the invitation of the Tibetan King; and to this day traces of its widespread influence may be seen in the remote Lhobrak valley, where there is a shrine built on the model of Nālanda.

The remains at Bargāon consist of numerous masses of brick mounds, the most conspicuous of which is a row of lofty conical mounds running north and south. These high mounds are the remains of the temples attached to Nālanda, while the great monastery itself can be traced by the square patches of cultivation among a mass of ruins 1,600 feet long and 400 feet broad. These open spaces show the position of the courtyards of the six buildings, which Hiuen Tsiang describes as being situated within one enclosure. From the absence of any mention of these structures by Fa Hian, who visited Magadha about 400 A. D., it seems clear that they were not in existence then; and General Cunningham ascribes their date to 450 to 550 A. D. A notable feature of the place is the number of fine tanks which surround the ruins; the largest of these are the Dighi Pokhar and Pansokar Pokhar to the north-east, each about a mile in length, and the Indra Pokhar to the south, which is nearly half a mile long. Such tanks are a common feature in the neighbourhood of ancient Buddhist monasteries.

Bargāon and the neighbouring village of Begampur to the west of the Dighi Pokhar contain masses of ruins which have never been properly explored, and there seems little doubt that a detailed

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\* L. A. Waddell, *The Buddhism of Tibet* (1895).

and systematic exploration of the whole area would be rich in valuable results. Jagdispur,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the south-west, also contains some interesting remains, including a low mound, 200 feet square which apparently consists of the debris of a Buddhist temple. On the top of this there is a large statue of Buddha under the Bodhi tree attacked by Māra and his host of horrible demons and alluring females, with 7 minor scenes representing other events in his life, and over all his Nirvāna or death. It appears probable that this statue is of greater age than most of the Bihār statues, as each relieve exhibits a great number of attendant figures, a characteristic of older Buddhist sculptures, such as those of Gandhāra. Some of the figures with animal heads among Māra's fiends are also like those in Gandhāra carvings, and in the Nirvāna scene there are some hands without a body playing drum and cymbal, a feature which is frequently met with in Gandhāra art. The statue is exceptionally large, the slab on which it is carved being 15 feet high and  $9\frac{1}{2}$  feet broad. It is worshipped under the name of Rukmini by the villagers, who daily smear it with vermillion, and make offerings of milk and sacrifices of goats before it.

In Bargāon itself there is a modern Jain temple, with some ancient sculptures, which is visited by some of the Jain pilgrims on their way to or from Rājgir. The village is also rich in Buddhist statues, the most remarkable being an image of Buddha seated with an attendant on each side and 2 flying figures above. To each of these 4 minor figures is added a short inscription—an unusual feature in Buddhist statuary—which shows that the attendants are Arya Vasumitra and Arya Maitreya, while the flying figures represent Arya Sariputra and Arya Madgalyāyāna, two disciples of Buddha, who as Arhats had the power of flying through the air. General Cunningham, it may be added, describes Bargāon as possessing finer and more numerous specimens of sculpture than any place he had ever visited. [Ruins of the Nālanda monasteries at Bargāon, by A. M. Broadley, Calcutta, 1872; Arch. Surv. India Reports Vol. I, 1871; and Report Arch. Surv., Bengal Circle, for 1901-02.]

**Bārā.**—Headquarters of the subdivision of the same name situated on the Ganges in  $25^{\circ} 29' N.$  and  $85^{\circ} 43' E.$  Population (1901) 12,164. The town contains the subdivisional offices, a sub-jail, sub-registry office, dispensary, dak bungalow and an English cemetery. It has also a station on the East Indian Railway, 290 miles from Calcutta, and is the centre of a considerable trade in country produce, both by rail and river, but its manufactures are of little importance; the manufacture of jessamine oil



(*chāmeli*) is an old but declining industry. The quarter known as old Bārḥ, which lies in the suburbs, contains an old Saiva temple called the temple of Amar Nāth. The name of the town is derived from the fact that it stands on a spot liable to the flood (*bārḥ*) of the Ganges. The river takes a sharp turn to the north-east here, and when it rises in flood, overflows its banks. Within living memory the place has been so deep under water that residents of two-storied houses have had to step into boats from the upper floor.\*

Bārḥ is frequently mentioned by the Muhammadan historians in their account of the last days of Muhammadan rule. Some of the battles said to have taken place in the neighbourhood were fought nearer Fatwā, and will be mentioned in the article on that place; but Bārḥ saw the passage of more than one army owing to its position on the line of march from Bengal. The Afghāns and Marāthās marched here in 1748 to meet Ali Vardi Khān after the sack of Patna, and encamped near the town. Ali Vardi, after halting at Bārḥ, delivered an attack on the flank of their entrenched position, carried it, and sent the Afghāns flying. Next morning the battle of Rabi Sarai, 5 miles from Bārḥ, completed their defeat and ended the campaign. Ali Vardi Khān again visited Bārḥ in 1750 and there met his rebellious grandson Sirājūd-daula, and consented to a reconciliation with him.

In 1760 another battle was fought here between the emperor Shāh Alam's army and a British force, with their native allies under Miran, the son of the Nawāb Mir Jafar Khān. At first, the imperialist troops attacked Miran in the rear and carried all before them, but then received a check. This, we are told in the *Riyāzu-s-Salātīn*, was due to a heavy gun which required to be drawn by 400 bullocks lying in front of Miran's artillery; the attacking force "got entangled among the bullocks and failed to cut through, as the bullocks hemmed them in all sides." At this juncture, the British opened a heavy cannonade on them, and completed their discomfiture. Their general was killed, and his troops broke and fled. According to the *Sair-ul-Mutākhharin*, the Nawāb Mir Kāsim Ali stayed at Bārḥ in 1763 on his way from Monghyr to Patna just before the massacre there, and had his prisoners, Jagat Seth and his brother Sarup Chand Seth, the great bankers of Murshidābād, put to death and their bodies exposed to birds and beasts of prey, so as to prevent their being buried according to Hindu custom. When the British army halted at Bārḥ on their march to Patna at the end of 1763, they found the bodies buried in one of the houses there.

\* J. Christian, *Names of Places in Bihār*, Calcutta Review, Vol. XCII, 1891.

**Bārḥ Subdivision.**—North-eastern subdivision of the district lying between  $25^{\circ} 10'$  and  $25^{\circ} 35'$  N. and between  $85^{\circ} 11'$  and  $86^{\circ} 4'$  E. with an area of 526 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the Ganges; on the east by the Monghyr district; on the south by the Bihār subdivision of this district and by the Jamūi subdivision of Monghyr district; and on the west by the Bankipore subdivision. The tract of country comprised by it is an alluvial flat with an uniform level, except for a depressed tract of swampy low-lying land, known as the Mokāmeh Tāl, between the East Indian Railway and the Sakri river, which remains under water for about 4 months in the year. The subdivision, which is a long and somewhat narrow strip of country, is intersected by a number of streams flowing in a north-easterly direction, the most important of which is the Sakri, which enters the subdivision at its south-western corner and passes out of it in its south-eastern corner.

Owing to the ravages of plague, the population was only 365,327 in 1901 as compared with 408,256 in 1891. The density is 695 persons to the square mile; and the population is contained in 1,075 villages and 2 towns, Bārḥ, its headquarters, and Mokāmeh. For administrative purposes, it is divided into 3 police circles, viz., Bārḥ, Fatwā and Mokāmeh, with 3 dependent out-posts, viz., Bakhtiyārpur and Harnaut in the Bārḥ thāna, and Surmairā in the Mokāmeh thāna.

**Bhagwānganj.**—Village in the south-east of the Dinapore subdivision, situated a few miles south-east of Bharatpurā. The village contains the remains of a stūpa, which has been identified with the Drona stūpa mentioned by Hiuen Tsiang. According to his account, eight kings divided the relics of Buddha after his death, and the Brāhman Drona, who distributed them, took the pitcher with which each portion had been measured and returned to his own country. He then scraped the remaining relics from the vessel and built a stūpa over them. Afterwards Asoka opened the stūpa, took the relics and the pitcher away, and built a new stūpa there. The stūpa at Bhagwānganj is a low circular mound 30 or 40 feet in diameter and about 20 feet high, built entirely of large bricks set in mud. Not far from the stūpa flows the Pūnpūn river. Along its banks, near a small village about 2 miles from Bhagwānganj, are the remains of a stone and brick temple about 40 feet square; and a mile or a mile and a half further north along the Pūnpūn is a large mound, about 45 feet square and 25 feet high, which marks the remains of another shrine. A few misshapen stones and fragments occupy the summit of the mound, and are devoutly worshipped, with libations

of milk and other offerings, by the Muhammadans of the adjacent village Bihtā : this Bihtā should be distinguished from the village with a station on the railway 25 miles to the north, which is the site of a great annual fair. Tradition ascribes these mounds and others close by to a Muhammadan saint named Makhdūm Shāh ; and, absurd as it may appear, the mounds at Bihtā and Bhagwānganj, are both said to be his tombs or *dargāhs*, while all the other mounds are his *asthāns*. According to the List of Ancient Monuments in Bengal, this is one of the most interesting and little known spots in the whole of the Patna district. [Reports Arch. Surv. Ind. Vol. VIII.]

**Bihār.**—One of the 4 sub-provinces (Bihār, Bengal, Orissa and Chotā Nāgpur) which constitute the Province of Bengal. The name is derived from the town of Bihār, which was the capital at the time of the Muhammadan conquest ; when the Mughals made the surrounding country a *Sabāh* under a Governor, they named it after the old metropolis, and by a playful conceit said that the name meant the land of eternal spring (Persian *bahār*). In the Ain-i-Akbarī the *Sabāh* of Bihār is mentioned as including the 7 *sarkārs* or divisions of Bihār, Monghyr, Champāran, Hājipur, Sāran, Tirhut and Rohtās. Under British rule, the name Bihār was given to a *zila* or district comprising the present district of Patna and the northern portion of Gayā district. This was a huge unwieldy district, extending over more than 5,000 square miles, which was finally subdivided in 1865, the northern portion being constituted the Patna district. In the same year the present subdivision of Bihār was formed and was attached to the newly created district.

The term is now used as a convenient designation for the territory included in the Divisions of Patna and Bhāgalpur excluding Darjeeling, i.e., the districts of Patna, Gayā, Shāhābād, Sāran, Champāran, Musaffarpur, Darbhāngā, Monghyr, Bhāgalpur, Purnea and the Santāl Parganas ; but this is an arbitrary territorial division, for the western districts resemble the adjoining districts of the United Provinces, while the eastern part of Purnea belongs to Bengal proper, and the Santāl Parganas in its physical and ethnical features forms an integral part of Chotā Nāgpur. The latter district was accordingly treated at the last census as part of Chotā Nāgpur. Physically, Bihār includes the Gangetic valley between the ranges of the Himālayas on the north and the Chotā Nāgpur plateau on the south ; botanically, it includes only the portion south of the Ganges extending from the Son on the west to the old bed of the Bhāgirathi on the east. From a linguistic point of view, it is the tract in which the

dialect of Eastern Hindi called Bihāri is spoken, though that dialect has spread from the lower ranges of the Himalayas on the north to Chotā Nagpur on the south and from Mānbhūm on the east to the eastern districts of the United Provinces.

**Bihār Subdivision.**—Southern subdivision of the district lying between  $24^{\circ} 57'$  and  $25^{\circ} 26'$  N. and between  $85^{\circ} 9'$  and  $85^{\circ} 44'$  E. with an area of 791 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the Bārḥ subdivision, on the east by the district of Monghyr, on the south by the Gayā district, and on the west by the Bankipore subdivision of this district and the Jahānābād subdivision of the district of Gayā. The subdivision consists of two distinct portions. To the north is an alluvial plain intersected by the Son, Phalgu, Panchāna and Sakri, and by numerous small streams. To the south it is separated from the Gayā district by the Rājgir Hills stretching from north-east to south-west, which consist of 2 parallel ridges with a narrow valley between them. These hills, which contain numerous ravines and passes, are rocky and covered with thick low jungle. They seldom exceed 1,000 feet in height, but are of great interest as containing some of the earliest memorials of Indian Buddhism.

The population recorded at the census of 1901 was 602,907, as compared with 608,672 in 1891, the decrease being due to the mortality and desertions caused by plague, which was raging at the time of the census. The density is 762 persons to the square mile; and the population is contained in 2,111 villages and one town, Bihār, its headquarters. For administrative purposes it is divided into 3 police circles, viz., Bihār, Hilsā and Islāmpur, and there are also out-posts at Asthāwān, Chandibāgh, Ekangasaraī, Giriak and Silāo.

**Bihār Town.**—Headquarters of the subdivision of the same name situated in  $25^{\circ} 11'$  N. and  $85^{\circ} 31'$  E. on the Panchāna river. The population, which was 44,295 in 1872, increased to 48,968 in 1881, but fell again in 1891 to 47,723 and in 1901 to 45,968; of these 29,892 are Hindus and 15,119 are Muhammadans. It is connected with Bakhtiyārpur by a light railway and contains the usual subdivisional offices.

The town has a very ancient history. In the ninth century A.D. it became the capital of the Pāla kings, and Gopāla, the founder of that dynasty, built a magnificent *vihāra* or monastery there. The present name of the town still preserves the memory of this great Buddhist monastery, but formerly its name appears to have been Udandapura or Otantapuri. Tradition states that before the Muhammadan conquests, it was called Dand Bihār or Dandpur Bihār from the great number of dandis or religious History.

mendicants who gathered there, but this name is clearly a corruption of Udandapura Vihāra. Bihār continued to be the capital until the Muhammadan conquest, when the city was sacked, the monastery burnt, and the Buddhist monks slain by Bakhtiyār Khilji. It continued, however, to be the residence of the Muhammadan Governors until 1541, when Sher Shah rebuilt Patna, which, says the Tārīkh-i-Daudi, "was then a small town dependent on Bihār, which was the seat of the local government . . . Bihār was from that time deserted and fell to ruins; while Patna became one of the largest cities of the province." The expression that Bihār fell into ruins seems an hyperbole of the chronicler, for, as we shall see later, it continued to be enriched with buildings by the Muhammadans, and its sacred tombs were for many centuries places of pilgrimage. It is rarely mentioned however by the Muhammadan historians until the days of the decline of the Mughals.

It was sacked by the Marāthās in the time of Ali Vardi Khān; and in 1757 was visited by the Nawāb Mir Jafar Khān. Of this visit we find an amusing account in the Sair-ul Mutākharrin, which says—"He spent some days in visiting the holy places of the town of Bahar; and especially the tomb of Shah-sherf-ben-yahya, the illuminated, who is the patron saint of that town, and is entombed in its neighbourhood. And it was here, likewise, that he satisfied his cravings for ox's flesh, fried in sesam oil, which is a kind of minced meat, for which that town is famous, and of which the *tary*-drinkers of those parts are so very fond. He was heard to say, before his arrival there, that he would eat his bellyful of it; and I have been told that quantities of that kind of meat had been ordered to be prepared by such of the inhabitants as had a knack at the frying-pan business." According to the author, he returned to Bengal after he had "done visiting the tombs and mausolea of the saints of Bahar, and had finished eating his bellyful of ox's flesh." Later, the emperor Shāh Alam made Bihār his headquarters for a short time during his invasion; and on the accession of the English to power, they established a factory there. The place is now called by the Muhammadans Bihār Sharif or Bihār the revered, owing to the many tombs of venerated Musalmān saints that it contains.

The town. The town still retains traces of its former importance, though its appearance has been strangely altered by a large sand-bed having formed in the Pañchāna a few miles to the south, and by the diversion of its water into *pains* or irrigation channels. Several branches of the river still intersect the various *mahalas* and the main stream still flows to the north, but both this and its branches are nearly dry except in the rains, and in the outskirts



one finds now a spacious bridge spanning a rice-field or patch of waste, now ruined *ghats* looking down on a wide expanse of arid sand. The town consists principally of one long narrow street with numerous lanes and alleys leading from it. There are 2 bridges with pointed arches over irrigation channels, the remains of former prosperity; and in all directions are seen Muhammadan tombs, the smaller ones of brick, the larger ones of squared and carved stones taken from the usual Muhammadan quarries of ruined Buddhist or Brahmanical buildings. To the north-west of the town there is a long isolated hill, called Pir Pahāri, having on its northern face a precipitously steep cliff and on its southern face an easy slope in successive ledges of rock.

Bihār contains numerous remains, of which the most ancient is a sandstone pillar, 14 feet high, bearing 2 inscriptions of the Gupta dynasty. The upper inscription is of Kumara Gupta's time (413—455 A.D.); the lower one apparently belongs to his son and successor Skanda Gupta (455—480 A.D.). This pillar used to lie inside the old fort, but it now stands on a brick pedestal opposite the Court-house. It was placed there, upside down, by Mr. Broadley, a former Subdivisional Officer, who had it inscribed with a list of the local officers and native gentlemen of Bihār. Ancient remains.

One of the most interesting monuments of Bihār's past history is the fort, which is now in ruins, though traces of its walls and ramparts still remain. The ground on which it stands is a natural plateau, extending over 312 acres, raised considerably above the level of the surrounding country. In shape, the fort resembles an irregular pentagon of vast size, 2,800 feet from north to south and 2,100 feet from east to west; it was surrounded by a cyclopean wall, 18 to 20 feet thick and 25 or 30 feet high, composed of gigantic blocks of stone quarried from the neighbouring hill. Along these ramparts were circular bastions, the northern gate being flanked by tall towers; and the whole site was surrounded by a great moat 400 to 600 feet wide, which has long since been brought under cultivation. The fort.

Inside the fort there are many mounds marking the site of old buildings, but for many years past excavations have been carried on for the sake of the bricks found there. The remains still existing consist of the ruins of a smaller Muhammadan fort and buildings, of Hindu temples, and of the great *vihāra* or Buddhist monastery. In the centre is the *dargāh* of tomb of Kādir Kumaish, which is of modern date, but is composed almost entirely of the remains of the ancient *vihāra*, while its pavement is made up of ancient *chaityas* and pillars. The custodians of the shrine guard them with jealous care, and receive fees for permitting persons